

JAN 30, 1990
JORDAN TIMES
out

Swedish splits from cabinet

STOCKHOLM 29 — The leader of Sweden's largest Christian party quit the cabinet Monday, saying the government's policy on the Middle East was too pro-Israel. The resignation of Folke Persson, 57, came after a debate in the Swedish parliament on the Middle East. Persson, who has been in the cabinet since 1982, said he had lost faith in the government's policy. He said the government was too pro-Israel and that it was not doing enough to help the Palestinians. He said he was resigning because he was a Christian and he believed in peace.

Jordan Times

An Independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية والراي

One killed in Kashmir

SRINAGAR, India (R) — Security forces opened fire on anti-India protesters in Kashmir Monday, killing one man and wounding two, police sources said. The incident took place in the town of Srinagar, the summer capital of the country's only Muslim-majority state, where thousands of Indian soldiers are stationed. The protesters were demanding the withdrawal of Indian troops from Kashmir. The security forces were trying to disperse the protesters. One man was killed and two were wounded.

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U.S. says it accepts increasing number of Soviets

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — An official American spokesman Monday rejected assertions that the United States had "closed its doors" for Soviet emigrants and related figures showing a sharp increase in the number of Soviets accepted as immigrants in the United States over the years.

Responding to statements made by the Soviet ambassador to Jordan in an interview with the Jordan Times Sunday, Jonathan Owens, director of the United States Information Services in Amman, said the Bush administration expects to accept 50,000 Soviet emigrants during fiscal year 1990 (October 1989 to September 1990).

Citing what he said were official figures, Owens said the limit set for fiscal year 1990 represented a 25 per cent increase from the figure for fiscal year 1989.

"U.S. policy has always been to increase emigration of Soviet minorities, not to reduce it," Owens told the Jordan Times. "The U.S. Congress is also considering legislation to further increase the number of Soviet emigrants to the United States," he said.

Owens' remarks directly contradicted a statement made by the Soviet ambassador, Alexander Zinichuk, that the United States imposed an annual limit of 18,000 on Soviet emigrants as soon as Moscow relaxed its regulations on emigration under the liberalisation drive under way in the Soviet Union. "When we opened our doors (for emigration), they closed theirs (for immigration)," he said.

According to Owens, who said he was speaking in his capacity as an official spokesman for the American embassy in Amman, "immigration quotas have always been a feature of American policy for the past 70 years. But, as the official figures indicate, the number of Soviet emigrants to the United States has been always on the rise."

According to figures given by Owens, the United States accepted 787 Soviets as emigrants out of a total of 914 Soviets who left their country in 1986 and 3,694 from a total of 8,153 in 1987. A total of 20,421 Soviet emigrants entered the United States in 1988 and 40,000 in 1989, he said.

The spokesman could not provide any accurate figures for the Jewish content of these figures, but said: "A vast majority of the Soviet emigrants to the United States are Jews."

The release of the figures comes at a time when Arab fears are high that hundreds of thousands of Soviet Jews, who are expected to leave their homeland in the next two to three years, would end up in Israel and be settled in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip at the expense of the Palestinians living there. Many Palestinian, Arab and other officials, including Ambassador Zinichuk, have referred to emigration restrictions imposed by the United States as a key contributing factor to the expected Soviet Jewish influx to Israel.

On a related issue, Owens referred to statements made by official State Department spokeswoman Margaret Thatcher earlier this month and over this weekend that the United States would not contribute funds to help the Jewish state settle immigrants in the occupied territories and would not allow its annual aid to Israel be used for settlements, which the U.S. has described as obstacles in the path for peace in the region.

Badran, Zoubi co-chair committee meeting King briefed on efforts to boost ties with Syria

AMMAN (I.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein received at Al Nadw Palace in Amman Monday Syria Prime Minister Mahmoud Zoubi, who is here at the head of the Syrian side to meetings of the Joint Jordanian-Syrian Higher Committee, which he co-chairs with Prime Minister Mudar Badran.

Badran and Zoubi briefed the King on the ongoing discussions and agenda of the meeting. The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said matters related to the committee's work, particularly concerning ways to bolster Arab solidarity in the face of common challenges facing the Arab Nation, and efforts designed to achieve economic integration between Syria and Jordan would be discussed.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Royal Court Chief Sherif Zeid Ben Shaker were present at the meeting, which was followed by a lunch hosted by the King.

Earlier, the two prime ministers co-chaired the first round of the joint committee's meeting at the Prime Ministry.

Badran spoke of the need for serious action and practical steps designed to help Syria and Jordan to confront challenges and danger posed to their peoples.

Badran said that Jordanian-Syrian ties had been developing positively, "a fact that is bound to prompt the two sides to be optimistic that the current session will be most fruitful, specially at a time when Jordan and Syria are together facing a common enemy which requires further coordination and cooperation."

In reply, Zoubi said pan-Arab solidarity and Jordanian-Syrian cooperation serve as a shield providing protection to the Arab Nation in the face of Israel's aggressive plans.

Topics of common interest to the two countries in economy, trade, agriculture, transport and energy along with issues concerning joint companies will be discussed by the panel.

Upon arrival here earlier at the airport, Zoubi made a statement in which he stressed cooperation among Arab states was imperative in the light of the latest statements by Israeli leaders about settling immigrants in the occupied territories.

"Bolstering ties between Jordan and Syria is a vital link on the road to Arab solidarity and joint action to confront the Israeli enemy which is constantly seeking to expand at the expense of Arab land," he said.

He said Syria would stand by Jordan against "the Israeli settlement plans and the malign idea of (Jordan) as an alternative (Palestinian) homeland."

Zoubi is accompanied by Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa.

In reply to a question, Zoubi said Turkey's decision to cut back the Euphrates river water had caused severe damages to Syria. "Syria is holding contacts with the Turkish government on this question and hopes that the negotiations will reduce the damage to Syria," Zoubi added.

Badran told reporters that the joint committee would discuss economic, commercial, and cultural cooperation as well as political affairs.

The two countries will embark on discussions on financing the Al Wadiah Dam project on the Yarmouk River on the border and foreign and Arab investors are expected to come to Jordan shortly to explore the possibility of financing the project, Badran said.

Zoubi also is accompanied by his deputy for economic affairs, and the ministers of transport, economy and industry and several specialists and officials.



His Majesty King Hussein Monday confers with Syria Prime Minister Mahmoud Zoubi in a meeting attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Mudar Badran, and members of a delegation accompanying Zoubi (Petra photo)

Arabs step up protests over Soviet emigration to Israel

CAIRO (AP) — President Saddam Hussein of Iraq blamed the United States Monday for an influx of Soviet Jews to Israel, leading a chorus of Arab protests.

The Arab League brought up the question officially with the United States, and Arab foreign ministers were reported planning to meet on how to stop the flood.

The Soviet Union also drew Arab fire, as newspapers echoed Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat's weekend call for the Soviet government to reverse itself and curtail migration of its Jews to Israel.

In a Cairo speech Saturday, Arafat appeared to point blaming fingers at both the Soviet Union and the United States. The PLO chairman appealed to Moscow for restrictions as he alleged that Washington was giving Israel money to help settle immigrants.

Speaking to reporters in Cairo, Hussein said the influx is causing "plain and serious harm" to the Palestinians.

In Tunis, the Arab League Secretary-General Chadi Khlifi entered the controversy Monday, charging that the Jews were being forced to go to Israel in violation of their rights. He urged "joint Arab action to defeat this new plot organised against the Arab Nation."

Khlifi discussed Jewish immigration with Robert H. Pelletreau, the U.S. ambassador to Tunis and Washington's designated channel for a year-long dialogue with the PLO. Details were not revealed.

President Hussein told reporters in Cairo: "This matter involves plain and serious harm to the Arabs generally and the Palestinians in particular. We regard the United States as a participant in this immigration because of its policies."

"If the United States were preventing nationals of other countries from settling in it, we would say that this is a general practice," he said.

"But for the United States to let in all kinds of immigrants and prevent only Jewish immigrants from the Soviet Union and East European countries, this can only mean that it is opening only one door to them. Namely, Israel's door."

Hussein predicted the immigration wave will foster "aggressiveness and expansionism among Israeli fanatics."

In Damascus, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) issued a statement saying Moscow and Washington had struck a deal over Jewish emigration at the expense of Palestinians.

"The Palestinian leadership is very concerned about the increase in the number of Jewish immigrants to Israel," the PFLP said in a unusually harsh criticism of Moscow.

"This influx comes within the framework of a deal between the Soviet Union and the United States at the expense of the Palestinian people and their legitimate rights," the PFLP said in a unusually harsh criticism of Moscow.

It said the influx could lead to a new war in the Middle East and called for an urgent Palestinian-Soviet meeting to discuss the issue.

Then Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Economic Affairs Taher Al Masri led a delegation to Moscow in August 1989 to reschedule the debt repayments for 1989 and 1990 but only reached an agreement in principle. In an interview with the Jordan Times following the talks, Masri, now a member of Parliament, said the delay in reaching an agreement was due to differences on the details and volume of Jordanian exports linked to the agreement.

Another official source familiar with the details of Masri's discussions in Moscow said: "The talks failed because Jordan wanted to reschedule the debt on the same basis as its agreement with the Paris club; for example, move up payments for five years with a five-year grace period, but Moscow wanted to commit the Kingdom to pay the debt repayment for 1989 in cash." So far no payments have been made on the debt for 1989. The source said the Soviet Union wanted Jordan to pay the debt for the first half of 1990 in goods and the payment due in the other half of the year would be open for negotiations.

"The two sides could not agree on the percentage of goods or the demand to pay in cash," he said. "If Jordan pays in cash to the Soviet Union, then other creditors, the Paris and London clubs, would demand cash too," he asserted.

Another snag which developed in the Moscow negotiations was terms for the second half of 1990, according to the source. "Leaving negotiations open for the other half of 1990 left the door open for terms the Kingdom would not agree to," he said.

One of the obstacles, the

Amman, Moscow to discuss debts

By Ghadeer Taher
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — A Soviet delegation arrives here today in an attempt to reach an agreement on rescheduling Jordan's debts to the Soviet Union after earlier efforts had failed.

V.F. Morozov, the Soviet deputy minister for foreign economic relations, who will be heading a high-level trade delegation, will seek to reach agreement on about \$230 million representing Jordan's debt repayment instalments due in 1989 and 1990, linking part of them to exports of Jordanian products to the Soviet Union, according to official sources.

"About 95 per cent of the debt is military debt," an official source told the Jordan Times on condition of anonymity. The bulk of the debt was incurred during 1984 when the Kingdom bought Soviet equivalents of the American hawk missiles, the source said. The Kingdom also turned to the Soviet Union and acquired a major air defence system after the U.S. Congress vetoed an \$1.8 billion arms deal with Jordan but no definite figures or details of the purchases from Moscow were revealed.

Informed sources estimate Jordan's total debt to the Soviet Union at several hundred million. Minister of Finance Basil Jaradneh Monday refused to give an exact figure, saying "it is not our policy to release the amount of the debt for each country."

A senior official who was closely involved in the previous talks with the Soviet Union said obstacles remained in the way of a final agreement between Amman and Moscow on the debt repayments. However, highly-placed Soviet sources said Moscow expected "concrete results and a final agreement" from the Soviet delegation's talks in Amman this week.

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Israelis set record in house demolitions

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — The army demolished or sealed 38 houses belonging to Palestinians in Jerusalem, the second highest number since the uprising began, according to human rights groups.

In a report, the Israel Information Centre for Human Rights in the occupied territories said that 20 houses were destroyed and 18 sealed in the West Bank and Gaza Strip since the beginning of the year.

"This data indicate a substantial increase in the use of demolition and sealing as punitive measures in the territories," the report said.

The group, founded by liberal Israeli politicians and academics, said that only the month of June 1989 registered more house demolitions and sealings with 42.

According to their figures, 432 houses have been demolished or sealed for "revolutionary" activities since the Palestinian uprising began in December 1987.

The latest army figure shows that 383 houses have been destroyed or sealed as of Jan. 18. It said that 22 had been destroyed and 20 sealed since Sept. 10.

The army defends its policy of house demolitions and sealings by saying it serves as a strong deterrent against future unrest, but it has been criticised by the United States and human rights groups in Israel and abroad as collective punishment.

A study released Dec. 20 by the Tel Aviv University's Jaffee

Centre for Strategic Studies disputed army claims that house demolitions reduced violence. It found that in many cases "such measures inflamed the situation."

Meanwhile Sunday, police detained three Jewish activists of the right-wing Kach party after they protested in front of the Arab Jerusalem home of Faisal Al Hussein, a Palestinian activist.

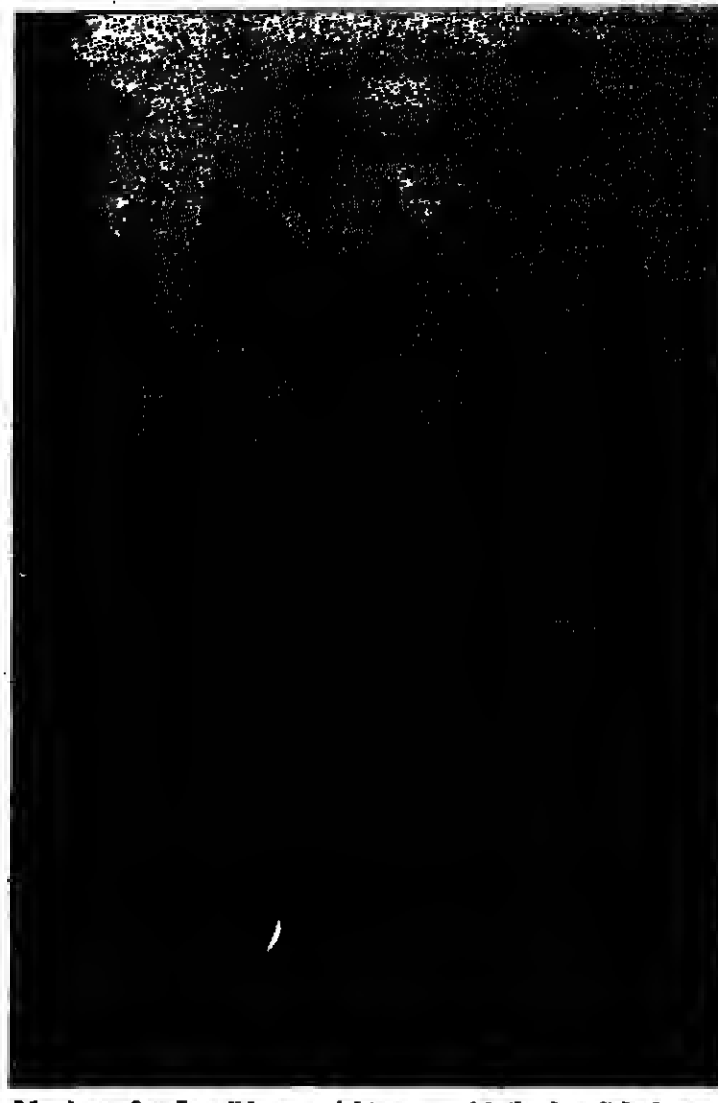
"They went too far this time," said Uzi Sandori, a police spokesman. "We believed they planned to cause problems and disrupt the public order."

Sandori said the activists were brought before a court to be remanded in custody, but the judge released them on condition they do not approach within 100 metres of Hussein's house and refrain from harassing him in any way.

One of the activists, Noam Federman, had spat in Hussein's face as the Palestinian activist was led to a weekend detention on Jan. 19. Federman later turned himself in to police, but was released because no charges were made against him.

The body of a missing Israeli Druze soldier was found near his village Sunday, and military sources said it appeared he shot himself because of an unhappy love affair.

They said his rifle was near his body and he left a handwritten letter in Arabic. The soldier had been missing four days.



Members of an Israeli human rights group visit the demolished home of Ali Mami in the Balata refugee camp. Reports say that Mami's home was handily demolished when the Israeli army blew up an adjacent Palestinian house.

Arab League Council to discuss Eritrea

JEDDAH, Saudi Arabia (AP) — The Eritrean rebellion will be discussed by Arab League foreign ministers for the first time ever during their regular session in Tunisia next March, according to Eritrean representatives.

The Eritreans, whose 28-year-old guerrilla war is aimed at secession from Ethiopia, have long sought observer status at the 22-member league.

Osman Dandan, representative of the Eritrean Liberation Front-United Organisation (ELF-UO) in Saudi Arabia, told the Associated Press the Eritrean problem had been listed on the agenda of the next session of the Arab League's Council, which holds regular meetings in March and September at the level of foreign ministers.

He said the move came as a

result of a meeting recently held at league headquarters in Tunis between Secretary-General Chadli Klibi and ELF-UO Chairman Omar Sayed Mohammad Al Borj.

The move comes against a backdrop of Israeli infiltration in Africa in light of restoration of diplomatic ties between Israel and Ethiopia, he said.

During his visit to Tunisia, Borj met with a number of officials including the foreign minister. He later visited Libya.

Dandan and Borj will soon fly to North Yemen for talks with President Ali Abdullah Saleh who is mediating to bring the Eritreans and Ethiopians to the negotiating table. He expected the talks to be held in the near future but denied the date of Feb. 1, had already been fixed, as

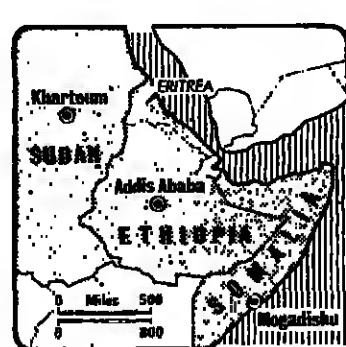
earlier reported.

He said that the North Yemeni leader had been "assured of Ethiopia's desire to meet with the Eritreans" and was therefore continuing his mediation bid.

Dandan however made it clear that the Eritreans were adamant that the United Nations attend any peace talks between the two sides.

The ELF-UO, which groups four guerrilla factions excluding the military-strong Eritrean People's Liberation Front, held preliminary talks with an Ethiopian government delegation in the Sudanese capital of Khartoum last March.

The talks broke down because Ethiopia opposed the Eritrean demand that either the United Nations, the Arab League or the Organisation of African Unity be



The talks were to resume in June 1989 but did not.

The liberation front and representatives of the Ethiopian government met twice under the sponsorship of former U.S. President Jimmy Carter in Atlanta, Georgia and Nairobi, Kenya, but no breakthrough was reached.

AUB says campus dispute settled

NICOSIA (AP) — Officials of the problem-plagued American University of Beirut (AUB) Monday ended a three-day meeting that they said had resolved tension between the main campus in west Beirut and a branch in the city's eastern sector.

Students at the Off Campus Programme, as the branch in east Beirut is known, have refused to attend classes for two weeks, alleging the AUB administration in west Beirut was discriminating against them.

AUB President Frederic P. Herter flew from New York to the port city of Larnaca on the south coast of Cyprus to attend the meetings.

He denied reports that the east Beirut branch wanted to become an autonomous university, saying it had "operational problems."

"Autonomy was not on their minds," he said in a telephone interview with the Associated Press from Larnaca, where he met with administrators and faculty from both campuses.

The tension between the AUB faculties marked a new problem for the U.S.-affiliated university that has suffered heavily in Lebanon's 14-year-old civil war.

Several Western faculty members have been kidnapped by extremists. Three have been

killed.

Two are still captive, acting Dean of Agriculture Thomas Sutherland, a Scottish-born U.S. citizen, and Brian Keenan, an English language professor who holds dual Irish and British nationality.

Herter said it was "good news" that Sutherland, kidnapped in Beirut June 9, 1985, had been reported alive and well Sunday by a London newspaper.

The Sunday Correspondent said pro-Iranian sources in Beirut confirmed that Sutherland was being held by Briton John McCarthy, a television journalist kidnapped in Beirut April 17, 1986.

Herter conceded that the east Beirut branch had "inadequate representation of... interests on the main campus."

He said that it would "take a lot of good will on both sides" to resolve the problems between the faculties, "with people on both sides willing to go back and forth" between the two sectors of Beirut.

The extension was set up in 1977 as it became more hazardous to cross the green line that divides the city into sectarian zones.

The university hopes to get more faculty on the east to cross

the green line to work on committees because with only one senior coordinator who travels to the east regularly, there have been constant "communications problems," Herter noted.

He said faculty at the east Beirut branch want more students admitted, charging that the administrators in west Beirut who review the applications have discriminated against Christians seeking to enroll in east Beirut.

"There have been no irregularities or prejudicial activities in the admissions on the part of the main campus," Herter said.

Enrollment at the branches, which offers courses in the arts and sciences as well as engineering, dropped this year from slightly over 1,000 to just under 900.

All the students at the branch are Christian, as are about one-fifth of the 5,100 students at the main campus.

Herter said the university was not willing to lower its criteria for selecting students for the branch.

"We want uniform standards on both sides," said Herter, who has not been in Beirut since 1985 when extremists began kidnappings.

He said the university had processed a record number of applications this fall. About one

applicant in 10 or 11 is being accepted, he said.

Herter also said the university had raised about three-quarters of the \$1 million it was seeking to repair damage caused by shellfire during six months of civil war fighting last year.

The fighting forced the west Beirut campus to close. It reopened in October.

Israelis pound village

Israeli artillery Monday pounded a village in South Lebanon after a series of guerrilla attacks on Israeli troops in the area.

Security sources said the village of Braasheet, 110 kilometres south of Beirut, came under heavy fire but there were no reports of casualties.

The village lies on the edge of Israel's self-declared "security zone" and is controlled by the Syrian-backed Arab militia.

The security sources said an Israeli officer and three soldiers were wounded Saturday when a landmine exploded under a vehicle inside the buffer strip.

An Israeli colonel was killed in the strip last week by a Palestinian group.

Press campaigns against Soviet influx to Israel

KUWAIT (AP) — The Al Watan Daily Monday called a Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to stop Soviet Jews emigrating to Israel and Yasser Arafat was quoted as urging the Arabs to pressure European and world bodies to oppose any Soviet move to ease restrictions.

Another Kuwaiti newspaper, Al Qabas, said moves by Moscow that could allow large numbers of Soviet Jews to go to Israel were the result of "the continuation of Arab inaction" to confront the issue.

Al Qabas said that current moves for an Arab-Israeli peace settlement were futile and said confrontation with Israel was the only solution to the long-running conflict.

"We still hold the strong card," the daily said. "One hundred thousands Jewish immigrants will not be an effective force against the Arab human strength, provided... the Arabs close ranks... and show they are capable of returning a blow."

"Secondly, we must stop imagining peace will restore Palestine," Al Qabas said. "We should return to the principle of pan-Arab battle which we have relinquished, leaving the burden of the direct confrontation to the Palestinians."

Al Watan's appeal was contained in an open front-page letter by the newspaper addressed to Gorbachev. The daily asked every Arab to flood Soviet embassies with copies to oppose any move to allow unrestricted Jewish emigration to Israel.

Saudi Arabia's Al Yawm daily quoted Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), as describing the feared flood of Soviet Jews to Israel as "a catastrophe befalling the Arab World."

Al Watan's letter followed an appeal by the Kuwaiti government to the United Nations to take action.

It is part of an escalating Arab media campaign against the prospect of hundreds of thousands of Soviet Jews being allowed to settle in Israel.

Israel is reportedly planning to relocate the Soviet Jews in the

occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip to bolster the Israeli presence there, creating a major obstacle to current peace moves.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said Jan. 14 that the Jewish state must retain the occupied lands to provide space for an expected surge of Soviet Jews triggered by more liberal Soviet emigration policies and U.S. restrictions on immigration.

The Soviets, who appear to be moving towards restoring relations with Israel that were severed in 1967, still maintain restrictions on the number of Jews who can emigrate to Israel, but these have been eased since Gorbachev came to power.

Some 12,000 Soviet Jews went to Israel last year and Israeli officials expect 300,000-500,000 more to arrive over the next three years.

Al Watan's letter to Gorbachev said: "The flood of Jews from your country to ours means that you assist Israel to continue its pattern of expansion and aggression, play with the region's history and geography, threaten world peace and security and prepare for more ferocious future wars."

Al Watan said the letter was addressed to Gorbachev because he was "leader of one of the two superpowers" and because of Soviet support for liberation movements and the Palestinians' right to self-determination.

"We strongly appeal to you to take an historical position by preventing the forthcoming catastrophe... being intensively prepared in Washington and occupied Jerusalem by halting the project of Soviet Jewish emigration to Palestine," the letter read.

Despite the media campaign, Kuwait and other Arab states have stopped short of directly criticising the Soviet Union.

Al Qabas said: "Are we entitled to blame the Soviet Union for its shifting from a state of principles to a state of interests and do we have the right to criticise the recklessness of the Soviet Union, which sells arms to the Arabs and send fighters to the Zionist entity?"

"Undoubtedly, the Kremlin,

when it decided to take this decision which injures us, has placed the interest of its country before anything else."

"What encouraged it to do so was the assurance it developed during its friendship with us that our decisiveness is absent because our unified stand is absent," the paper said.

Israeli change

Israeli officials accused the Soviet Union Sunday of hindering Jewish emigration by failing to allow direct flights between the two countries.

The flood of Soviet Jews arriving in Israel has reached 5,000 a month, but senior foreign ministry officials said a Soviet ban on Israeli flights to Moscow would force some Jews to delay their departures for up to a year.

"It's quite clear that it is policy," said one ministry official.

"They are delaying the ratification of an agreement between the airlines for flights between Israel and the Soviet Union which in practice delays for a year the emigration of people who have already received a permit."

An Israeli newspaper reported that Israel would cite the delay in opposing the repeal of U.S. legislation denying the Soviet Union most-favoured-nation trade status because of its restrictions on emigration.

President George Bush has supported cancelling the 1974 amendment once the Soviet parliament legislates free emigration.

The officials declined to comment directly on the newspaper report, but said the restrictions on air traffic meant the Soviet Union had not completely ended its former policies.

The Israeli airline El Al and the Soviet carrier Aeroflot signed an agreement in December to begin Moscow-Tel Aviv flights but it has not been approved by the Soviet government.

The issue of direct flights has taken on unexpected importance with the flood of Soviet Emigrants, who now reach Israel through third countries.

3 children wounded in persistent Beirut sniping

BEIRUT (AP) — Three children were wounded Monday when the car carrying them to school was hit by sniper fire as rival forces clashed across Beirut's dividing green line, police reported.

They said the children, two brothers, aged three and 10, and a four-year-old boy, were shot in the suburb of Rweiss in south Beirut.

Mohammad Hojr, 10, his brother Mahmoud, and Mahmoud Karaouni were hit in the neck or head as they passed the area next to the green line battle zone.

The children, their school uniforms bloodstained, were driven to Al Sabel hospital in

their school bus but hospital sources said their condition was not critical.

The fighting erupted Sunday. The thud of exploding shells echoed across the capital as army units and Syrian-backed militiamen battled with tanks and artillery.

The clashes along the five-kilometre demarcation line that splits Beirut died out Monday morning.

Monday's victims raised the casualty toll from green line fighting this year to four killed and 15 wounded.

The hostilities violated a Sept. 22 ceasefire brokered by the Arab League that halted six months of murderous artil-

lery battles between troops commanded by maverick Christian leader Michel Aoun and the Syrian army.

More than 900 people were killed and nearly 3,000 wounded in that period.

Truce in South

In South Lebanon, police said Monday that a ceasefire was holding between rival Shiite Muslim factions who have been fighting for the last month.

The truce between the Syrian-backed Amal militia and the pro-Iranian Hizbollah was called Sunday by Algerian mediator Mohammad Taher.

Arab Americans mobilise in support of Dole proposal

WASHINGTON — The American-Arab Anti-Discrimination (AAD) mobilised its entire national membership Jan. 19 to actively support Senator Dole's recent proposal for a five per cent cut in foreign aid allocations to the five leading recipients of U.S. assistance — Egypt, Israel, Pakistan, the Philippines and Turkey — as a means of freeing up badly needed funds for the emerging democracies of Eastern Europe and Panama.

In an action alert sent to 23,000

members, AAD urged that letters of support for what has become a highly controversial call for a reassessment of priorities with respect to the foreign aid programme be sent to the House of Representatives and Senate foreign relations subcommittee chairmen Patrick Leahy and David Obey. Arab-Americans were also urged to contact members of the two subcommittees and to mail enclosed postcards to their congressional representatives.

Stressing that American fore-

ign aid has historically been based either on the promotion of U.S. strategic and political interests or on the proposition that such aid furthers our support for democracy in other parts of the globe, AAD President Abden Jabara described Dole's proposal as "a courageous act."

He added that "Sen. Dole has correctly stated that the time has come to publicly ask whether our foreign policy interests at this juncture requires some re-allocation of aid to support emerging democracies in an

area of the world vital to U.S. interest."

Noting that Sen. Dole's Jan. 16 New York Times article in which he first put forth his provocative proposal clearly alluded to the power of the pro-Israel lobby's successful effort to make aid to Israel the centre piece of our foreign aid programme, Jabara called for the beginning of "a long overdue, serious and substantive national debate on the issue of foreign aid priorities."

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

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99:30	Arabic series
100:30	Arabic series

CHURCHES	
17:11	Meghreb
18:30	Isis
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church, Sweilak Tel. 810740.	
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 627785, 683266.	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757.	
Terranova Church Tel. 622366.	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 622541.	
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543.	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772611.	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.	
Assiout International Church Tel. 683266.	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 511285.	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 634932.	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
Slight rise in temperature is expected	

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Arafat Al Ashhab	602507
Dr. Jamal Abu Bakr	746426
Dr. Wael Fajal	748000
Dr. Issam Abu Riqaa	681987
First pharmacy	601912
Perdows pharmacy	778336
Al Asmaa pharmacy	637055
Nelroth pharmacy	623672
Al Salam pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	646485
Shamsi pharmacy	637660

DRUGS:	
Dr. Mawzi Obaidi	(—)
Al Shams' pharmacy	985238
ZARQA:	
Dr. Wafiq Haidash	(—)
Khalifeh pharmacy	983417
EMERGENCIES	
Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Immediate	630411
Rescue	630411
Civil Defence Emergency	199
Rescue Police	192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade	891228
Blood Bank	775212
Police	824042
Traffic Police	863630
Public Security Department	630321
Royal Complaints	605800
Prison Complaints	661776
Waste and Sewerage	987467
Complaints	987467
Amman Municipality	
Complaints	787111
Telephone Information	
(directory assistance)	121
Overseas Calls	010220
Central Amman Telephone	
Complaints	623101
Arabic Telephone Rescind	661107

World Bank probes development fund

AMMAN (Petra) — A visiting team from World Bank met Dr. Mohammad Sagar, secretary-general of the Ministry of Social Development, Monday to discuss the establishment of a ministry fund for development and employment. The ministry plans to establish the fund to help create new job opportunities and to fight unemployment through providing loans to the jobs to start income-generating projects. The loans are aimed at the low-income families and needy groups, according to ministry officials.

The World Bank team and Sagar reviewed programmes in Jordan for helping the poor and limited income groups. Discussions also covered consultations on the social conditions of families in the rural areas.

Jordan-Egypt firm to decide on seed project

AMMAN (J.T.) — The board of directors of the joint Egyptian-Jordanian holding company will meet in early February to decide on a feasibility study for setting up a project in southern Jordan to produce agricultural seeds. A statement issued here Monday said the Ministry of Agriculture had already granted the holding company a lease to develop 2,500 dunams of land in the Disi region to produce the seeds required by Egypt and Jordan.

The company has already conducted studies on the project, which is expected to produce seeds as well as field crops and potatoes on a large scale. The project is expected to cost \$3.1 million, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

RSS expands college computer facilities

AMMAN (J.T.) — Within the framework of plans to promote activities of Princess Sanyia College for Informatics, the RSS has expanded the college facilities and laboratories, and brought new equipment including microcomputers and printers. Furthermore, a number of employees from the Ministry of Health have enrolled in computer courses at the college so as to familiarise themselves with computer administrative and scientific applications.

The RSS Information and Computer Software Centre will hold intensive training courses at the college throughout 1990. These courses include introduction to computers and their applications, microcomputers and their applications, programming in BASIC, advanced programming in COBOL, programming in PASCAL, advanced systems analysis techniques, management information systems, computers and financial systems, accounting and budgeting, data base management system design, data base III plus, computer applications in libraries and information centres, operations research in projects monitoring and evaluation, computer-aided design and computer methods of structural analysis and design.

Jordanian writers honoured

AMMAN (J.T.) — Four Jordanian writers, who won the 1989 Noor Al Hussein Award for children's literature, were honoured here Monday at a ceremony held under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC) in Amman. The winners included Mohammad Al Taher, who won for his poetry, Sara Sa'bul Aish for literature, Nadia Abu Taha for theatre script, and Munira Adel Shraih for short story and drama.



Her Majesty Queen Noor Monday presents certificates and awards to winners of a competition in literature for children (Petra photo)

Queen Noor presented the winners with a certificate of excellence and a cheque for JD 1,000 each.

The Noor Al Hussein Award for children's literature was established in 1988 as an incentive to Jordanian writers to produce high-quality literature for children, and to serve as a vehicle for creative competition in the field with a view to making Jordan a pioneer in this field.

The establishment of the award was the main recommendation adopted by a symposium on children's literature which the National Association for the Education of Children organised in March 1988. A total of 58 writers competed for the 1989 award in five categories of children's literature:

- The short story and novel: 23 works
- Poetry and lyrics: 11 works
- Theatre scripts: nine works
- Scientific literature: eight works
- Folkloric literature: one work

The award for folkloric literature was waived this year because the

presented work was not considered to be up to the standard required.

A panel to judge the works was selected from Jordan and other countries and the panel included university professors, critics, and men and women of letters from Jordan. The winning works would be published by the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF), according to a statement.

Minister of Culture Khaled Al Karaki, who addressed the ceremony, announced that the Ministry of Culture was seriously thinking of establishing a publishing house to publish children's books and magazines to be sold at competitive prices. He said that the ministry would support all Jordanian libraries visited by children and hold exhibition of children books.

Clowns in town

AMMAN (J.T.) — The French Cultural Centre will present a show entitled "Clowns" at the Royal Cultural Centre Thursday Feb. 1.

This group includes many things at the same time: Comedians, Mimics, Acrobats, Jugglers and Gymnasts. Norman Fantoni, Marc Froulx and Vincent Roubineau, the three clowns, offering a mixture of emotions and mockery, all carefully staged by the producer Mario Gonzalez.

Holding only to the basics: A stage, curtains, make-up, costumes and three red noses, this is what it takes them to do what they sincerely try to do: Make people laugh. After all, to act is to make the clown! The wide success they got in France, specially at the 1989 Avignon Festival, led these "Clowns" to undertake an international round taking them from Europe to the Middle East and to the Maghreb countries.

It doesn't need any knowledge of the French language to understand the show since it is greatly visual.



Ikhwan emerge from fenced gardens

(Continued from page 1)

Parliament have urged the government not to wait for employment opportunities to come up in order to reemploy those who were dismissed and instead prepare a special appointment list to ensure their reinstatement. As part of the liberalisation process, the government revoked bans on suspected political activists from working for government and public departments. A government memorandum issued last week said that priority should be given to those who were either dismissed or rejected for political reasons. In the meantime, Ikhwan officials said that the movement did not intend to make a separate plea for their members' reinstatement.

Although the various political trends and Parliament members strictly oppose dismissal from government jobs for political reasons, the Ikhwan have been criticised "for trying to monopolise the Ministry of Education." The charge was denied by the spokesman of the Islamist bloc in Parliament, Dr. Abdul Latif Arabiyat. "I challenge anybody to prove that the Ikhwan used favouritism in job appointments. Anyway, where is the influence that we allegedly have in the Education Ministry?" Arabiyat asked. Deputy Arabiyat was removed himself from his post as undersecretary of the Ministry of Education in 1985 said allegedly because he is an Ikhwan member.

In comparison with members of the other groups, including the leftist pan-Arabist and the more radical Islamic Liberation Party (Tshir), the Ikhwan enjoyed a relatively "privileged" status. For unlike the leadership of the other trends, most of whom spent long years in prison for political reasons, the leadership of the Ikhwan was almost untouched.

In the last few years, however, some prominent and outspoken Ikhwan members were apprehended and imprisoned mostly for short periods. Abu Ghaneimah himself was apprehended for 48 hours last year after making a speech in Irbid on the Intifada, while Sheikh Abu Zant was jailed three times between 1985 and 1989 and Irbid Deputy Ahmad Kofahi was held for a short

period during the anti-government riots last April.

There were no Brotherhood members among the 65 political activists who were kept for four months in the southern Swaqa Prison. All of the detainees were exclusively leftists.

According to Abu Ghaneimah, the state's security organs used to impound passports of Brotherhood activists, but the conceded that no Ikhwan activists were ever held for lengthy periods of imprisonment.

"We were very active but within reasonable limits," he explained. Plans to allow the formation of political parties in Jordan, according to a national charter that has not been formulated yet, are expected to end the exclusive status of the Brotherhood.

Despite their long-standing and ideological hostility towards the left, Brotherhood officials said they supported the formation of all kind of political parties in the country. During the last November's parliamentary campaigns, and sometimes in recent Parliament debates, the Ikhwan appear to

be still determined to pursue their role in countering the left and particularly the Communists. Brotherhood members do not deny that they were instrumental in preventing leftist candidates from winning in some areas in country by supporting alternative candidates, including those running for Christian seats.

An Islamist deputy associated closely with the Muslim Brotherhood recently urged the Communists in Jordan to abandon their political thoughts "after the defeat of Marxism in the countries where it was adopted."

The "ideological" friction gave way to fears that the Ikhwan would show intolerance towards pluralism and co-existence with other trends in a free atmosphere.

But deputies Arabiyat and Agham dismissed such fears and said that the movement would not object to pluralism. "It is true that our religion is against any atheist thought but we would not oppose the formation of and coexistence with other parties including the Communists," Arabiyat said.

Jewish influx to Israel should not be at Arab expense — Soviet official

By Saleem Al Masni (Petra) with agency dispatches

AMMAN — Soviet Jewish emigration to Israel should not be at the expense of the Arabs and Moscow's move to relax its emigration policies harbour no ill intentions, a senior Soviet official said here Monday.

Dr. Salam Khajiev, director-general of the Grosny research centre for oil and mineral resources in the Chechen-Ingush region of the Soviet Union, said: "What is important now is to find means that the emigration process does not harm others."

He said the increased number of Soviet citizens emigrating to other countries was in line with the implementation of the liberalisation policies of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. "The Soviet policy of perestroika and glasnost, which mean a democratic process, has given increased freedoms for Soviet citizens and allowed any group to leave the Soviet Union if it wishes so," Khajiev told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, in an interview. "We do not have any intention to inflict any harm on others," he said. "We are currently in the first phase of the new Soviet march as represented in democracy and increased personal freedom."

doms and we do not have any intention to cause negative effects that could harm our Arab friends in general and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in particular," he added.

"When I go home I will convey the views of the Jordanian people and government, as well as the impressions I got during my visit to the Kingdom, to senior Soviet officials so as to make sure that no harm will be inflicted on Jordan, the Palestinian people and the Arab nation," he said.

Khajiev said the recent upheavals and dramatic changes in Eastern Europe were "designed to improve the living conditions of the people, to grant them freedoms and to let their voice be heard."

Asked whether these changes would have any effect on relations between the Arab World and Eastern Europe, he said: "Everyone is aware of Arab rights and the changes now taking place (in Eastern Europe) will lead to consolidation and expansion of the basis of cooperation and mutual respect, not only between governments but also between the peoples."

The Soviet Union's relations with many Arab countries are military as well as political, he said. "Priority is now given in our country to economic develop-

ment and as we attain economic progress and necessary capabilities, we will open the doors for economic cooperation."

Moscow voices concern

In Moscow, The Soviet government Monday accused Israel of hindering Middle East peace efforts by planning to use emigrating Soviet Jews to force Palestinians out of the occupied territories.

Soviet Spokesman Vadim Perilyev told a news conference that First Deputy Foreign Minister Yuli Vorontsov made the denunciation at a meeting with Arye Levin, Israel's chief representative in Moscow.

"We oppose any use of citizens leaving the Soviet Union, at great risk to them, to push Palestinians off land belonging to them," Perilyev quoted Vorontsov as saying. Perilyev said Vorontsov singled out Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir for his comment that a "big Israel" was needed to accommodate increasing numbers of Soviet Jews going to the country.

"The Israeli leadership must answer for the dangerous consequences of any such action."

Course on barley improvement

AMMAN (J.T.) — The International Centre for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA) is conducting a training course at its regional office in Amman about "techniques and methodology in barley improvement" for personnel from Jordan, Syria, Iraq, Egypt and Qatar.

The course will be conducted between Feb. 3-8, 1990. Specialists from ICARDA and from Jordan will instruct the course. The training course is part of the Mashreq Project activity. The Mashreq Project is sponsored by the United Nations Development Project (UNDP) and Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development and is being implemented in Jordan, Syria and Iraq. ICARDA provides technical assistance and technical backstopping for the project activities.

The project aims at helping increase barley, pasture, and sheep production in the critical rainfall zones of the three countries. Through the project, training will be provided to technicians working in the field to upgrade their knowledge and to better qualify their abilities and skills in the crop and animal production and in transferring available technology to farmers and sheep owners. The training course will be officially opened by the secretary general of the Ministry of Agriculture, Dr. Sami Al Sunna.

Soviet institute to help oil exploration

AMMAN (J.T.) — A delegation from the Soviet autonomous Republic of Chechen-Ingush is currently on a visit to Jordan to prepare an agreement on bilateral cooperation in oil and gas exploration, and extraction of shale oil in Jordan and the recycling of used oil products, according to the head of the delegation, Dr. Salam Khajiev.

Khajiev, director general of the Grosny research centre for oil and mineral resources, held talks Monday with Royal Society (RSS) President Hani Al Mulki and visited the Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

Khajiev was quoted as saying by Petra that the proposed agreement will entail cooperation in standards and specifications on

oil products, prospects for joint processing of oil products, recycling of used oil and prospecting for oil, natural gas and oil shale.

The projected agreement, he said, will also cover exchanges of visits by scientists from the two sides, prospects for fertiliser by-products and exchange of information and expertise in these fields.

The Soviet team's discussions with Mulki and RSS officials covered the outcome of studies on cooperation between RSS and the Grosny institute. The talks also covered cooperation with Jordanian universities in scientific research related to oil and related products.

Khajiev expressed the Soviet Union's readiness to expand the scope of cooperation with Jordan in joint projects of common interest through concerned scientific institutions and universities.

Jordan-Syria company offers shares in its plants

AMMAN (Petra) — The Amman-based Jordan-Syria Industry Company, which was established in 1986, has opened the door for Arab investment and financial organisations to acquire shares in the capital of any of its two plants which produce carpet and insecticides.

The announcement was made by the company on the eve of the current meetings here of the Joint Jordanian-Syrian Higher Committee co-chaired by the prime ministers of the two countries.

According to the statement, the carpet plant which is located in Syria, has a capacity of producing three million square metres of carpet every year.

The JD 9 million plant will produce only 1.5 million square metres this year to cover the needs of the two countries and fulfil contracts concluded with merchants in Jordan and Syria, it said.

The statement said that the insecticides plant, which was established in Jordan with a \$22 million capital, has an annual production capacity of 4,000 tonnes and this can be raised to 10,000 tonnes.

It said that the joint company plans to open new markets for its white cement plant located in Jordan to market its production of 100,000 tonnes annually. Apart from the joint company, Jordan and Syria have been cooperating in economic, industrial and social fields.

The higher committee, which holds meetings in Amman and Damascus on a rotation basis, has set up sub-committees which arrange for cooperation in scientific, cultural, energy, water, agricultural, industrial and transport fields. The statement noted that the Joint Jordanian-Syrian Land Transport Company, which was established with a JD 3 million capital, had been contributing towards promoting trade relations between Amman and Damascus.

The two countries have linked their national grids to cooperate in power distribution, and Jordan has been supplying electric power to a large sector in southern Syria, benefitting nearly 1.5 million people.

DISTINGUISHED JOB OPPORTUNITY

A leading office in Amman is seeking to employ a female translator with the following qualifications:

1. University degree.
2. Excellent command of both Arabic and English.
3. Typing, in both Arabic and English, using an IBM personal computer. Knowledge of Wordstar Word Processing is a plus.
4. Minimum of 3 years experience.

Working hours are from 9:30-5:00. Salary and other fringe benefits, according to qualifications. Kindly send resume with a recent photo to:

P.O. Box 7111
Amman, Jordan

Applications must be received no later than Feb. 15, 1990.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITION

- * A plastic art exhibition which includes paintings, sculptures and ceramic works at the Spanish Cultural Centre — 5:30 p.m.

LECTURE

- * A lecture entitled "Pre-Historical periods in Jordan" by Dr. Majid Al Mahdhan at the Goethe Institute — 7:00 p.m.

SEMINAR

- * A seminar, in Arabic, on the peace process between Iraq and Iran at Abdul Hameed Shouma Foundation — 6:00 p.m.

FILM

- * Documentaries on Soviet circus at the Soviet Cultural Centre — 5:30 p.m.

Jordan-Soviet debt

(Continued from page 1)

volume of goods, has been removed, according to the source. Originally, the Soviet Union wanted to buy more phosphates from Jordan than its own needs in order to sell the extra quantity to a third country. However, Jordan opposed this idea, and told Moscow "that they can have as

much cement and phosphate as they want but not for resale; subsequently they dropped this demand," the source said.

Jordan does not export any goods to the Soviet Union, according to Soviet officials. The delegation is expected to look into other Jordanian products besides cement and phosphates

Abdul Meguid

(Continued from page 1)

and delivered a speech.

"This has great importance for the next elections," said rabbi Benjamin Chen, an aide to Baba Baruch. "There are about 800,000 North Africans in Israel. They will remember that Shamir didn't come to honour the memory of Baba Sali."

The North Africans constitute a large segment of the Sephardim, or Jews from Middle East countries, who in recent years have become a majority among Israel's 3.5 million Jews. Ashkenazim, or European Jews, have been more supportive of the Labour Party.

By Rami G. Khouri

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1972

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It takes two to tango

IT WOULD be presumptuous of any party other than the Palestinians under occupation and their lawful representative, the PLO, to outguess the Palestinians on the future course of their intifada. Still, common sense has it that any struggle for liberation may require some tactical changes and adjustments from time to time. Faisal Al Hussein recently suggested that there could come a time when the intifada may choose to amend its ways, including its current tactic of stone-throwing which brought the revolt much glory and attention. Implied in Hussein's words is the proposition that after more than two years it might be necessary to shift gears and begin the process of reviewing the tactics of the intifada while maintaining its strategy which aims at liberation and steadfastness on Palestinian soil.

One of the principal features of stone-throwing is the fact that it is neither violent nor peaceful. There may be strong arguments now in favour of escalating the intifada in view of the fact that till this point in time the Israeli government has yet to respond to reason and accept to negotiate with the PLO. There are equally persuasive arguments in favour of maintaining a non-violent intifada for as long as necessary. Stone-throwing, however, is a middle course which is neither this nor the other. But, be that as it may, the call for reappraisal and review of the tactics of the intifada is a sensible thing to do as the circumstances and conditions of the 90s, both within the West Bank and Gaza Strip and outside, do in fact call for a general reconsideration of tactics. Hussein's prescription of a non-violent intifada, including the stopping of stone-throwing, could be a positive development, provided, as he himself has stated, Tel Aviv begins to respond favourably to Palestinian yearnings and aspirations. In other words, it is up to Israel to make the first move in order for the Palestinians to be prepared to respond in kind for any confidence-building measures to make peace.



JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i Arabic daily on Tuesday said that the deputies who have been discussing the draft budget in Parliament have displayed serious responsibility and manifested their keen interest to safeguard democracy. The paper noted that the discussions were characterised by objectivity and the debate achieved great results represented in enhancing the spirit of democratic rule and the desire to corroborate cooperation between the executive and the legislative authorities in matters that concern the Jordanian public. The paper however said that it had been hoped that the deputies would give more attention to the content, that is, the real challenges and dangers we are all facing now. Some deputies asked the government to control spending, and this is a demand by every person in Jordan; but some of the deputies expected the government to do miracles in all towns and villages and make all the people happy, the paper continued. It said that the previous government of Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker succeeded in stopping further aggravation of the economic situation but the coming stage requires tremendous efforts not only on the part of the two authorities but also the people of Jordan, assisted by the Arab countries, the paper added. It said that much patience is needed and more efforts by all parties are required if the country is to overcome the present difficulties.

A guest columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily says Tuesday that Washington's threat to wash the hands of the Palestine question means that it wants to stop dealing with this problem at all levels. Sabhi Fhamawi says that if this is true then one would expect Washington to refrain from vetoing U.N. Security Council resolutions condemning Israel's recurrent attacks on Arab countries and would abstain from opposing U.N. moves to check Israel's atrocities in the Arab region. Once Washington has taken this decision, then one would expect that the United States would stop bothering the Soviet Union about the Soviet Jews and their desire to emigrate to occupied Palestine and one would expect the U.S. to stop being hostile to the Palestinian people and the PLO and would return to the U.N. affiliated organisations like the UNESCO and FAO to contribute more positively towards the advancement of the human kind, the writer notes. He adds "we sincerely hope that the United States carry out its threat because only then can we benefit from a peaceful world since its strategic alliance with Israel will stop and its continued support for aggression will end for ever."

Sawt Al Shaab Arabic daily said Tuesday that the Jordanian and Syrian people attach great hopes to the meetings of their joint higher committee which tackles all different questions related to bilateral cooperation in industry, agriculture, education, health and other fields. The paper said that the agreements concluded through the higher committee are being implemented, and are benefiting both peoples. Jordan has been forging ahead with plans to bolster its ties with the rest of the Arab World; and through higher committee meetings and bilateral deals, it had succeeded in going a long way towards achieving that goal. The relations with Syria, the paper said can continue to progress and flourish, given the mutual confidence and the sincere efforts and will to achieve the common goal.

The View from Fourth Circle

An honourable national opportunity

THE year 1989 will go down in the annals of Jordan as one of the most significant in the country's history, in both good ways and bad. The bad news was that the abuse of unchecked executive power, coupled with economic mismanagement in the face of an unfortunate simultaneity of negative regional and international economic developments, brought hardship and humiliation to every home in the country. The angry grassroots response was inevitable, if not precisely predictable.

The good news is that the counter-response of the Jordanian leadership was swift and substantive. That response has brought us to the point today where executive authority is exercised within a more rational dynamic, comprising representation of the people through a directly elected parliament, more accountability of public officials, greater exercise of personal freedoms, a more pluralistic political atmosphere, and a more relaxed and open press that provides opportunities for people from all walks of life to express themselves freely and, one hopes, responsibly.

We have started on a long and probably lovely journey, wearing new shoes that may take us in many different directions on the way, there are bound to be some divergences and excesses. The political air we breathe is still clouded with anger, frustration, dismay and some bewilderment. It is natural, in such a situation, for the air we exhale to be characterised at times by vindictive ness, even rage. We should expect and be prepared to deal with wild and unsubstantiated accusations (Abu Falafel and his friends Abu Shawarma and Ibn Mansaf stole two billion dollars), wreckless demands (the government should cancel all its foreign debt), and Great Dreams (we should issue a cabinet decision instantly freezing prices, raising all employees' salaries, and transforming Jordan from a consuming to a producing economy).

The changes taking place in the country today will result in nothing less than an entirely new domestic political infrastructure, in which the exercise of public power and decision-making will be based on principles that have yet to be fully appreciated, formulated and implemented. This historic process will take years. I am convinced that Jordan will emerge from the exercise much healthier, in the economic, social and political fields.

At the same time, we have an opportunity to bring added honour to this country and to set an example for others around the world, particularly in the Third World, by devising a fair and efficient mechanism to come to terms with the mistakes and the excesses of the recent past — to ascertain guilt, to apportion blame, to apply punishment, to institute realistic deterrence, and to wrap the entire process in an appropriate measure of mercy.

Looking back on the past four months, or since the beginning of the election campaign, one must be impressed by the pervasive

and powerful demands among all sectors of society to assess how and why Jordan's economic and political structures deteriorated so rapidly during the past several years, to punish those responsible, and to establish new mechanisms that would hold public officials accountable before the people. The parliamentary candidates pushed this theme very hard. His Majesty King Hussein hinted at it in his opening address to parliament. The two houses of parliament reiterated it clearly in their response to King Hussein. The prime minister stressed it in his presentation of the government's policies, and members of parliament reiterated it in their comments on the government's policy programme. In every home in the realm, talk continues to focus on economic crimes, and on the need to punish the wrong-doers. The rage continues. The demand for retribution, justice and even revenge persists, and perhaps grows stronger.

What are we to do about it? For starters, we would do well to recognise our situation in its full international context. All of our problems, mistakes and sufferings in recent years are part and parcel of a global trend characterised by a combination of rising foreign debt, economic mismanagement, excessive government control of the economy, and curbs on personal liberties, the press, the arts and education. It was common, in the 1970s and 80s, for governments to borrow excessively, spend inefficiently, and hide the full truth from their people. In many cases around the world, when the abuse of public power, the extent of economic hardship and the humiliation of individuals and entire peoples all reached unbearable levels, there was a public reaction of some sort. Ours was relatively mild, in retrospect. In other countries, it was much stronger, notably in Iran, Algeria, the Philippines, South Korea, and most of Eastern Europe.

Many of these countries are going through similar exercises of coming to terms with the excesses and mistakes of the recent past. In the end, Jordan will have to draw on its own morality, social traditions and political culture in determining how to strike a balance between the powerful demand of the people for retribution, on the one hand, and the dictates of justice and mercy, on the other.

It would be easy to carry out a witch hunt, isolate a few individuals, and blame them for all the ills we have experienced. But this would be neither useful nor honourable. Ours is not a vindictive political culture, and should not be transformed into one simply in response to cumulative short-term pressures and frustrations. This historical moment demands rigour in the application of justice — but also purposefulness in asserting the force of law and the supremacy of morality.

The moment demands more than accusations, slogans and

tirades. The people and legacy of Jordan should look forward to greater spectacles than public officials trading accusations about the conduct of public affairs. If individuals or institutions in flagrant mismanagement of the economy, or engaged in make-believe favouritism, or lied to us, or stifled us, lived in a make-believe world of a self-indulgent, imperial executive, or blatantly ignored the rights and interests of a society which entrusted them with the honour of public service, then it should be a national priority to deal with these ghosts of the past quickly and fairly, in order to move on to more important business of national restructuring and building that lies ahead.

Though it will not be easy, the process is important if we are to aspire to build new political and economic structures with any serious measure of credibility or durability. This is both a national opportunity and an obligation. We owe it to ourselves to appoint a team of the best available legal and ethical minds in the country to launch a rigorous investigation into how we reached the low point of Jordan 1989. Investigatory mechanisms should be ironclad in their attention to the determination of fact that truth and the application of judicial penitence.

Obviously, such a process would consider accusations against the previous government, which is the primary target of public wrath — but to do only this would be grossly unfair, both to the previous government and to the people of Jordan. An investigation should also assess the broader political, economic and social dynamics which have characterised this land since the beginning of our rendezvous with excess in the mid-1970s. For it was only because we soared so high after 1974 that we could crash so low in 1989.

We should investigate our recent past not simply to satiate a sense of vengeance against those who suddenly brought us to the point where — depending on our income — we could no longer afford to buy Perrier water, or could barely maintain the nutritional level of our children's food. We should investigate the recent past in order to remember who we are, where we came from, how we strayed so far from home, and where we can realistically aspire to go in the near future.

Rami Khouri is a former editor of the Jordan Times. Today, he resumes writing his weekly column after an absence of 15 months.

Government committed to reduce budget deficit, boost exports

The following is the text of a letter of intent from the government of Prime Minister Zaid Rifai addressed to International Monetary Fund Managing Director Michel Camdessus on April 13, 1989 describing the government's fiscal and austerity measures to deal with the economic crisis.

Mr. Michel Camdessus
Managing Director
International Monetary Fund
Washington, D.C. 20431

Dear Mr. Camdessus:
The attached statement by the Government of Jordan sets out the country's economic and financial objectives for 1989 and 1990, developed in the context of a medium-term framework of growth oriented adjustment, and the policies that it intends to pursue for their achievement. In addition, Jordan intends to request purchases under the compensatory element of the compensatory and contingency financing facility (CCFF) in respect to a shortfall in export earnings. Upon completion of the first review of the stand-by arrangement, Jordan would avail itself of the optional tranche of the CCFF. The following will constitute performance criteria under the programme to be supported by the proposed stand-by arrangement:

a. Ceilings on net domestic assets of the banking system and ceilings on net government borrowings from the banking system for end-September and end-December 1989 as described in paragraph 17 of the attached statement.

b. Review of policies as described in paragraphs 13 and 20.

c. Ceilings on new concessions on non concessional public and publicly guaranteed external debt for September and December 1989 as described in paragraph 21.

d. Elimination of arrears on external debt payments as described in paragraph 22.

e. The standard requirements with regard to trade and exchange system as described in paragraph 23.

2. The domestic adjustment effort by Jordan would need to be supported by debt relief and additional concessional aid to cover the remaining balance of payments gap. Accordingly, the Government of Jordan intends to request the Paris Club, other bilateral creditors and commercial banks for debt rescheduling on generous terms.

3. The government believes that the policies set forth in the attached statement are adequate to achieve the objectives of the programme but will take any further measures that may become appropriate for this purpose. The Government of Jordan will consult with the Fund on adoption of any measures that may be appropriate in accordance with the Fund's policies on such consultation. In this context, the first review of performance under the programme will be held not later than Nov. 30, 1989, when understandings will also be reached on policies to be pursued in 1990 and on the performance criteria for the period of arrangement after Dec. 31, 1989.

4. Jordan will provide such information as the Fund may

request in connection with the implementation and appraisal of the policies set forth in the statement.

Hanna Odeh
Minister of Finance
Government of Jordan
Amman

Husayn S. Kasim
Governor
Central Bank of Jordan
Amman

Statement by the Government of Jordan on its Economic Policies

1. Jordan recorded a rapid rate of economic growth and relative financial and price stability for a prolonged period up to the mid-1980s. During the decade ending in 1985, per capita income more than doubled and there was a noticeable improvement in the living standards of the people. Heavy investment by the government in social facilities produced large improvements in education, health, and other social services in the country and, at the same time, development of a road network and other physical infrastructure created an environment conducive to an acceleration in private investment activity. One of the main factors facilitating the process of rapid economic development was a sharp increase in private remittance inflows and official grants following the economic boom in the neighbouring oil producing countries. However, it was the framework of sound macroeconomic policies and liberal exchange and trade system that was instrumental in a productive and efficient use of the flow of financial resources from abroad.

2. Encouraged by the sustained increase in the inflow of remittances and expectations of high levels of foreign grants under the 1978 Baghdad Arab Summit Resolution, the government accelerated the pace of economic and social development in the country. However, the subsequent decline in oil prices and other regional developments led to a marked deceleration in the availability of external resources. A prolonged slowdown in the region curtailed the demand for Jordan's exports and reduced employment opportunities abroad for Jordanian workers, leading to a decline in remittances and a rise in domestic unemployment. These developments, in combination with lower than expected foreign grants began, in the context of inflexible expenditure commitments, to strain the budget and the balance of payments by the mid-1980s.

3. Believing that these were reversible trends, the initial government response was to continue the momentum of economic activity in the public sector by resorting to external commercial borrowing, followed by increased recourse to domestic bank borrowing. The resulting domestic demand pressures, in combination with declines in remittances

and official grants and rapidly rising external debt obligations, exerted pressure on the balance of payments and the exchange rate. By 1987 the country was faced with a low growth rate, a widening budget deficit, higher rates of monetary expansion, an increased deficit in the current account of the balance of payments, a widening of the overall balance of payments deficit, and a decline in reserves. Despite a number of measures adopted by the government in the second half of 1988 (see below), there were indications that the underlying economic and financial conditions in 1988 continued to deteriorate.

4. The underlying weakness in the budget and the balance of payments combined with speculative activity led to a situation that could not be sustained without a reassessment of economic priorities and a fundamental restructuring of macroeconomic policies. Accordingly, the government took bold policy initiatives starting in mid-1988, the most important being the floating of the exchange rate which led to its depreciation, freezing of a large component of government expenditures in the budget for 1989, and a right tightening of monetary policy.

5. In the area of external sector, the dinar during the second half of 1988 depreciated by 31 per cent in local currency terms in relation to the U.S. dollar (to JD 0.477 = US\$1). During this period, divergences in exchange rates of the Central Bank, commercial banks, and the money-changers widened. However, in mid-February 1989, in view of the mounting speculative pressure on the dinar, the Central Bank rate and the commercial banks rate were unified at the rate of JD 0.540 = US\$1 leading to a further depreciation of 13 per cent of the official rate, and licences of money-changers were cancelled and their operations were closed down indefinitely. The higher costs of foreign exchange were passed on to domestic prices except for basic foodstuffs and petroleum products whose retail prices were kept unchanged.

6. Other external sector policies included the removal of quantitative restrictions on some imports in August 1988 and their replacement by high tariffs. In November 1988, a temporary ban on imports of 16 luxury goods was imposed in order to preserve the rapidly declining foreign exchange resources; this ban is to be lifted at the latest by the end of 1989.

7. As regards the budget, expenditures were contained by allowing no general wage increase and virtually freezing military expenditure, while purchases of materials and supplies were reduced. Revenue measures to strengthen the budget included (a) a 10 per cent tax on sales in luxury restaurants and hotels; (b) a 3 per cent tax on airline tickets for travel abroad; (c) a substantial increase in departure taxes; (d) a tripling of annual fees for work permits for foreign workers; and (e) tightening

ing of the procedures for collection of taxes and arrears. The favourable impact of the expenditure restraint and the new revenue measures on the budget was, however, offset by other factors including the revenue loss from freezing petroleum product prices, emergence of subsidies on food items following the devaluation, custom revenue losses from the banning of certain luxury imports, increased transfer payments, and rising debt service obligations. The result is that, without additional measures, the budget deficit (excluding grants) is estimated to decrease marginally from 23.7 per cent of GDP in 1988 to 23 per cent in 1989.

8. In addition to the above measures, the government tightened monetary policy and liberalised interest rates. Interest rates on deposits were floated in June 1988, the base lending rate was raised from 8 per cent to 10 per cent, and banks were allowed to freely determine the surcharge on lending rates. In addition, the Central Bank discount rate was raised from 5.75 per cent to 7 per cent in September 1988 and to 8 per cent in January 1989. At the same time, credit policy was tightened by limiting commercial banks' ability to extend overdraft facilities, prohibiting banks from extending credit in dinars against foreign currency deposits, and increasing the required reserve ratio on term deposits from 6 per cent to 9 per cent. In addition, encouragement was provided to attract foreign currency deposits to the banking system by raising the limits on such deposits by residents, while continuing the existing practice of having no limits or restrictions on foreign currency deposits maintained by expatriate Jordanians.

9. The government believes that it has taken substantive measures since mid-1988, and is determined to continue to implement further policy reforms to address the imbalances in the economy. However, there is an increasing realisation that the magnitude of the problem is such that comprehensive and sustained efforts are essential since indications are that adverse factors affecting external inflows are unlikely to be fully reversed. There is also a recognition that medium-term, growth-oriented adjustment alone will be very painful and unsustainable. Accordingly, the government has adopted a medium-term approach in consultation with the Fund and the World Bank staffs and intends to seek international support for its effort.

10. The principal objectives of the comprehensive medium-term reform programme, covering the period 1989-93, is to restore and increase the rate of economic growth within the framework of relative price stability, and to effect a substantial improvement in the budget and the balance of payments. More specifically, the real growth of the economy, which was negative in 1988, is to be gradually increased to about 4 per cent by 1992 and sustained at the level, a rate that is higher

than the population growth rate. This is to be achieved through the creation of a policy framework that provides increased investment incentives, and restores confidence, leading to an increase in private sector investment. The government intends to develop and implement policies aimed at further encouraging private sector investment in consultation with the World Bank. These will include a reassessment of incentives offered by the Encouragement of Investment Law. The government also intends to assess the organisational requirements of corporations, their business strategies, and operating plans and policies with technical assistance from the Bank. In order to improve resource use in the agricultural sector, its pricing policies, particularly those relating to pricing of water and subsidy to wheat production, will be reviewed and revised in consultation with the Bank. Higher investment would need to be financed by increased domestic savings. The government recognises that an essential element for the promotion of domestic savings is the elimination of the dissaving of the government. Accordingly, the government intends to take measures that would reduce the budget deficit to a sustainable level by 1993, which will require stringent controls on expenditure reform of the revenue structure, and new revenue measures on a sustained basis. Reduced reliance of the budget on domestic bank borrowing would need to be coupled with tight credit policy for the private sector and financial disciplining of the public enterprises so as to moderate the rate of monetary expansion to a level that is consistent with the target of reducing inflation rate from about 14 per cent in 1989 to about 7 per cent in 1993.

11. As regards the balance of payments, the government is determined to take all the appropriate measures to achieve a balanced position in the current account by 1993 compared with a deficit equivalent to over 6 per cent of GDP in 1988. This is to be achieved through (a) an aggressive policy of promoting exports, remittances, and tourism; (b) a tight demand management policy to contain import demand; (c) rationalisation of tariff structure to promote efficiency in resource use; and (d) a flexible exchange rate policy.

12. Within the medium-term framework, the government intends to reinforce the policies that have already been put in place by additional measures so as to build up the momentum of growth-oriented adjustment. The most fundamental area that requires additional measures in 1989, and in subsequent years, is the budget. Even after taking into account the expenditure reducing and revenue enhancing measures that have already been implemented, the deficit (excluding grants) is projected to be 23 per cent of GDP in 1989. It is the intention of the government to take additional measures in the remainder of 1989 to reduce the

deficit by 3 percentage points to 20 per cent of GDP compared with 23.7 per cent in 1988. Correspondingly, the deficit (including grants) would decline from over 16 per cent of GDP in 1988 to less than 12 per cent in 1989. The reduction in the deficit is to be achieved by additional measures as described in Attachment 1.

13. As for 1990, the government is committed to reducing the budget deficit (excluding grants) by another 3 percentage points of GDP to 17 per cent through revenue measures and expenditure restraint. The government is aware that the present tax structure is highly inelastic in relation to nominal GDP. This is due to a number of factors including the narrowness of the tax base, heavy dependence of taxes on imports, specificity of most rates, absence of a generalised consumption tax, a wide gap between the statutory and effective tax rates due to tax loopholes and tax evasion, and liberal import duty exemptions. Accordingly, there is an urgent need for tax reform and introduction of a generalised consumption tax of the value-added variety. The government intends to undertake a full review of the tax structure well ahead of the time for the preparation of the next budget so as to implement tax reforms. Similarly, the government intends to undertake concrete steps in 1990 for the introduction of a general consumption tax effective in 1991. For both these purposes, the government has asked the Fund to field a fiscal mission in June/July 1989 with a view to submitting recommendations to the government, at the latest by end September 1989, which would help in the preparation of the 1990 budget. If the structural reforms are inadequate to yield revenue that would help reduce the budget deficit/GDP ratio by an additional 3 percentage points in 1990, the government will take additional revenue measures to achieve the target. These measures will be discussed with a Fund mission which is expected to visit Amman in November 1989 for the first review of the proposed stand-by arrangement.

14. Central government expenditures are currently at an unsustainable level of 50 per cent of GDP, or about 80 per cent higher than total domestic revenue. Current expenditures alone exceed revenue by over 40 per cent indicating that government consumption is being sustained through domestic bank borrowing and external assistance. It is quite clear that the rate of growth of expenditures must be contained well below the growth of nominal GDP in order to achieve the targeted reduction in the budget deficit/GDP ratio. Accordingly, the government will need to continue to constrain expenditures, particularly the unproductive ones.

15. A new element in the expenditures that has emerged in 1989 is subsidies on basic food items of about JD 38 million mainly due to the fact that the

(Continued on page 5)

Government committed to reduce deficit, boost exports

JORDAN TIMES, TUESDAY, JANUARY 30, 1990

(Continued from page 4)

retail prices of wheat and flour, barley, rice, sugar, and powdered milk were not adjusted in line with depreciation of the dinar. The government believes that these subsidies are essential to protect the poor and vulnerable segments of the population from the effects of austerity measures. However, an attempt will be made to target subsidies for the poor on a more selective basis, keeping in view the objective of reducing the budget deficit.

16. The public enterprises are generally well managed in Jordan and most of them yield a positive rate of return on government investment. However, there are certain enterprises which are a drain on the budget or rely on bank borrowing to finance their operations. In the present context of austere budget and tight credit policy, the government has initiated a review process, both from an auditing and management point of view, of all the enterprises in order to increase their contribution to the budget. Those entities that are incurring an operating loss will be directed to improve efficiency, and follow realistic pricing policies, so as to achieve financial viability and self-sufficiency. Those already making a profit will be encouraged to curtail incidental expenditures and improve performance so that their contribution to the budget would increase over time.

17. The budgetary initiatives will need to be reinforced with a tight credit policy that, at the same time, ensures adequate supply of credit to the private sector, which will be the main engine of economic expansion. The Central Bank of Jordan has undertaken a thorough review of credit requirements of the private sector and public enterprises. In credit planning for 1989, due account has been taken of an expanding role of the private sector, and the increased demand for credit emanating from the projected increase in nominal GDP. The genuine credit requirements of the private sector and the seasonal credit needs of the public entities can be fully met even if the growth in net domestic assets is reduced from 14 per cent of the money stock in 1988 to about 9 per cent in 1989. This growth in net domestic assets together with the expansionary impact of the build up of foreign exchange reserves equivalent to JD 50 million will lead to monetary expansion of about 11 per cent in 1989. Based on the analysis of the credit requirements of the private sector and public entities, ceilings have been established on net domestic assets for end-September and end-December 1989 as set out in Attachment II. To facilitate the meeting of these ceilings after coming into effect of the stand-by arrangement, indicative targets have been established for end-June 1989. A substantial deviation of the actual outcome in June 1989 from the indicative target would necessitate a review of factors and policies. To ensure that the private sector has adequate access to credit availability, ceilings have been established on net government borrowings from the domestic banking system for end-September and end-December 1989 (Attachment II). A blocked account has been set up to partly sterilise the impact of the anticipated debt relief on the budget and on the financial position of the public entities. Credit ceilings on domestic assets and on net government borrowing from the banking system for 1990 will be established at the time of the first review in November 1989.

18. The government has already floated all the interest rates on deposits and, although the base lending rate remained fixed, the freedom given to the banks to vary their surcharge had in effect freed the borrowing rates as well. However, in order to encourage aggressive mobilisation of financial savings and effect an improvement in the allocation of loanable funds, the government has also decided to free the base lending rate effective from October 1, 1989. The government intends to let the lending and the borrowing rates be determined freely by the market forces so as to impart confidence to the financial market. In order to further deepen and widen the financial market, the government intends to set government bonds to the nonbank private sector at competitive interest rates.

19. Reduction in the current account deficit of the balance of payments is another major objective of the government's adjustment effort. The target is to reduce the current account deficit in relation to GDP from over 6 per cent in 1988 to 5 per cent in 1989, and 3 per cent in 1990. This is to be achieved by promotion of exports, and remittances and tourism, and containment of imports through stringent demand

management policies. The government intends to develop and implement measures to encourage export market diversification and create an appropriate institutional arrangement for export financing in order to promote exports. To further facilitate export performance and reduce price distortions, the government plans to implement a medium-term programme of trade liberalisation. The government will also take measures to simplify trading procedures, and complete the ongoing process of eliminating quantitative restrictions. In order to reduce disparities in the protection offered to different sectors of the economy, and to narrow variations in tariff rates, the government will introduce tariff reforms, ensuring that their revenue impact is neutral. Specific policies relating to these areas, and timing for their implementation, will be discussed and agreed with the forthcoming World Bank appraisal mission.

20. As regards the exchange rate, the government has demonstrated its flexibility by effecting a sharp depreciation of the dinar during 1988 and early 1989 when the exchange rate came under market pressure. This contributed to improving the competitiveness of the dinar in real effective terms. The government believes that the present real effective exchange rate provides adequate incentives for exports and intends to maintain it. In view of tight demand management policies that have been put in place and expected foreign exchange inflows and debt relief, the government believes that exchange rate stability can be ensured in the near future. However, if unexpected pressures develop, the government intends to review the policy with the Fund staff to adopt appropriate remedial measures. The factors to be taken into account in such a review would include the effectiveness of demand management policies, relative price changes in Jordan and abroad, developments in other markets on which the dinar is traded, export performance, and reserve position of the country.

21. The government is committed to pursue a prudent debt management policy. In order to alleviate external debt servicing problems and improve the structure of external debt, the government has established ceilings for September and December 1989 on new nonconcessional public and publicly-guaranteed external debt of initial maturity of over one year and up to and including twelve years, and such ceilings of initial maturity of over one year and up to and including five years (Attachment III). These ceilings will exclude rescheduling and refinancing undertaken in multilateral restructuring of official and commercial bank loans. Loan ceilings for 1990 will be established at the time of the first review.

22. Arrears on external debt service payments have emerged in recent months. Given the foreign exchange constraint, and the need to ensure a level of imports that is necessary for meeting the growth and price targets of the programme, external support in the form of additional resources and rescheduling of outstanding debt will be needed. The government will request a rescheduling of external debt obligations, including outstanding arrears, from the Paris Club and other official creditors, and from commercial

banks, hopefully on very generous terms; and it is determined not to incur new arrears once these negotiations are concluded. On this basis, it is expected that all external arrears will be eliminated through payment or rescheduling by November 15, 1989. Existing arrears to multilateral

financial institutions would be settled prior to the coming into effect of the stand-by arrangement. During the period of the stand-by arrangement, arrears will not be incurred in respect of payments and transfers for current international transactions. Up to November 15, 1989

arrears for the purpose of this definition exclude external debt service obligations in the process of being regularised through rescheduling.

23. The government shall not (a) impose or intensify restrictions on payment and transfers on current international transac-

tions; (b) introduce multiple currency practices; (c) conclude new bilateral payment agreements which are inconsistent with Article VIII of the Fund's Article of Agreement; and (d) impose new import restrictions or intensify existing ones for balances of payments reasons.

ATTACHMENT I

The following fiscal measures will be implemented on or before May 1, 1989.

Item	Change in Tax Rates or Prices	12 month Revenue Effect	8 month Revenue Effect
(JD millions)			
A. Revenues			
1. Petroleum			
LFO	Price increase from JD 1.8/cyl to JD 2.0/cyl	1.9	1.3
Premium gasoline	JD 0.214 to JD 0.271	3.9	2.6
Regular gasoline	JD 0.181 to JD 0.221	15.8	10.5
Jet fuel	JD 0.0651 to JD 0.081	2.6	1.7
Kerosene	JD 0.0651 to JD 0.0751	2.0	1.4
Gas oil	JD 0.0651 to JD 0.0751	9.6	6.4
Asphalt	JD 50/ton to JD 60/ton	1.4	0.9
Subtotal		37.2	24.8
2. Cigarettes Local			
Imported	Average increase of 30 per cent in tax rate	10.8	7.2
Subtotal		0.6	0.4
		11.4	7.6
B. Expenditures			
1. Reduction/elimination of budgetary subsidies for production and exports			
(i) Domestic production of barley, lentils, chickpeas, and vegetables	Elimination of budgeted subsidies due to alignment of domestic prices to international prices	2.5	
(ii) Exports of limited products	Removal of subsidies	3.0	
3. Reduction in expenditure/ Savings in telecommunication sector			
		2.0	
Total expenditure savings		14.8	
Total revenue and expenditure measures		61.4	

Wheat	Surplus representing difference between cost price of JD 13 per carton and sale price of JD 17 per carton	0.5
Wheat	Saving due to an increase in the extraction rate of milling wheat from 78 per cent to 80 per cent	0.8
Subtotal		7.3
C. Change in Tax Rates or Prices		
(JD millions)		
2. Reduction/elimination of budgetary subsidies for production and exports		
(i) Domestic production of barley, lentils, chickpeas, and vegetables	Elimination of budgeted subsidies due to alignment of domestic prices to international prices	2.5
(ii) Exports of limited products	Removal of subsidies	3.0
3. Reduction in expenditure/ Savings in telecommunication sector		
		2.0
Total expenditure savings		14.8
Total revenue and expenditure measures		61.4

1/ In addition, an attempt will be made to reduce expenditures on projects by JD 54 million in 1989.

ATTACHMENT II

Jordan: Credit Ceilings and Indicative Targets for 1989 (in millions of Jordan dinars)

	1988 Actual Dec. 31	Indicative Targets June 30	1989 Ceilings Sept. 30 Dec. 31
(Outstanding stock)			
Net domestic assets of the banking system 1/	2,259.6	2,444.6	2,491.6 2,539.6
Net claims on Government by the banking system 2/	764.2	839.2	874.2 909.2
(Cumulative changes relative to end-1988)			
Memorandum items:			
Net domestic assets of the banking system 1/	...	145.0	192.0 240.0
Net claims on Government by the banking system 2/	...	75.0	110.0 145.0
1/ Net domestic assets of the Central Bank, commercial banks, and the Housing Bank; includes net claims on Government as defined in footnote 2 below, claims on public entities, claims on private sector, claims on specialised credit institutions, claims on financial companies and other items (net), and deposits in a blocked account on which are expected to reach JD 30 million by June 30, JD 55 million by September 30, and JD 80 million by December 31, 1989.			
2/ Includes claims on and deposits of various ministries and governmental agencies as defined in a separate technical note. Also included is the trading account of the Ministry of Supply; at the end of 1988, there were no claims on this trading account by the banking system and its deposits with the banking system were JD 4.5 million.			

ATTACHMENT III

Jordan: Ceilings on New Public or Publicly-Guaranteed Nonconcessional External Debt, 1989 (in millions of U.S. dollars)

	Cumulative from January 1, 1989 through Sept. 30, 1989	Cumulative from January 1, 1989 through Dec. 31, 1989
Ceilings 1/ on new public or publicly-guaranteed debts:		
(a) With initial maturity of over one (1) year and up to and including five (5) years:	175	175
(b) With initial maturity of over one (1) year and up to and including twelve (12) years:	260	275
1/ Excludes loans with a grant element equivalent to 25 per cent or more, as defined by DAC, restructuring and refinancing loans undertaken in multilateral restructuring of official and commercial bank loans, use of Fund resources, and international reserve liabilities of the banking system.		

OPEN FORUM

I am angry

A LITTLE boy of eight has died... a headline of that sort is enough to draw extreme feelings of sorrow and despair. To find out that the boy died because his teacher beat him till he died draws extreme anger and makes one wonder whether children are safe in this society.

What kind of society would produce criminals such as the teacher who beat a little child to death because the pupil couldn't solve a mathematical problem? What type of a ministry of education would employ such a heartless man?

I suggest that before we reassess school curricula and before we hold fancy seminars on ways to develop the intelligence of our children and before we brag about our limited percentage of illiteracy compared to other nations and before we announce that we are setting the trend of democracy and healthy thinking in Third World countries, we should develop our human nature.

Today I am angry because of this unnecessary death. Today I am angry because such stories make me feel that "our high level of education" has not done anything to channel away the animal tendencies in us. But tomorrow I want everyone to be angry. I want everyone who cares about human life to scream against this act and call for a well planned and studied control over the behaviour of school teachers. These incidents may not happen everyday but everyday children are abused physically and psychologically by teachers who fail to understand the significance of their role in society.

To those teachers who still believe that a cane or an insult makes the child understand quicker, I say leave your jobs and let our children grow to be better humans. Do not influence their future negatively.

To those teachers who have tried over the years to appeal to the children's natural intelligence and willingness to learn, continue your mission, for through you we hope to create a society in which every individual, man, woman and child is protected from any sort of abuse; and in which everyone enjoys the pride and dignity as a human being.

Nermeen Murad

Doublespeak is alive and well, corrupting English language

By Giles Elgood

official documents, violating laws, conducting unauthorised activities were all 'policy differences' to North," writes Lutz. The U.S. Defence Department also comes under fire. In the language of the Pentagon, bombs and shells which fall on civilian are "incontinent ordnance" while killing the enemy is called "servicing the target."

When an American politician says more weapons are needed to ensure "meaningful arms reduction," you may suspect that he is not being entirely frank.

When space officials call the explosion that destroyed the shuttle Challenger killing all seven astronauts on board an "anomaly," you know that some serious damage is being done to the language of Shakespeare and Chaucer.

A new book, "The State of the English Language," edited by Christopher Ricks and Leonard Michaels, charts these and other linguistic trends in a series of specialist articles.

Writing on doublespeak, William Lutz from Rutgers University in the United States says it is language that pretends to communicate but doesn't.

"Farmers no longer have cows, pigs, chickens, or other animals on their farms," he writes. "According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture they have 'grain-consuming animal units'... kept in 'single purpose agricultural structures', not pig pens and chicken coops."

Aircraft do not crash in the language of doublespeak, they just have "uncontrolled contact with the ground". In the jargon of the nuclear industry, power stations do not explode, they suffer "energetic disassembly."

Lutz, who is chairman of the committee on public doublespeak for the U.S. National Council of Teachers of English, singles out colonel Oliver North's testimony at Washington hearings into the Iran-contra scandal two years ago.

"Lying to Congress, shredding

That may not be so bad if you are a simple car mechanic or an operator. But it will be much harder to bear if your job description has been inflated to "automotive enthusiast" or "member of the vertical transportation corps."

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Bush seeks \$1.2 trillion budget for '91

WASHINGTON (R) — President George Bush sent to Congress Monday a proposed \$1.2 trillion blueprint for spending in fiscal 1991 that calls for lowering the U.S. deficit \$63.1 billion without raising taxes.

The budget plan includes a \$306.9 billion authorization for defence, slightly higher than the \$301.6 billion authorized for the current fiscal 1990, but about two per cent less than the rate of inflation.

The proposed spending represents a three per cent increase over 1990 spending. But the fiscal 1991 spending rise would be set by a nine per cent increase in revenues.

Bush's budget shows revenues rising from \$1.07 trillion in the current fiscal year to \$1.17 trillion in 1991, mostly due to a projected improvement in the economy.

Bush's budget plan assumes that the current economic expansion, now in its eighth year, will continue through 1995.

The administration sees gross national product, the total amount of goods and services produced, expanding by 2.6 per cent after inflation from the fourth quarter of 1989 to the fourth quarter of 1990. That com-

pared with 2.4 per cent last year, according to the latest government data.

It assumes GNP will grow by 3.3 per cent in 1991, a forecast many economists say may be too optimistic.

But the rosy economic forecast allows the administration to assume higher revenues that can be used to offset the deficit — at least on paper.

The administration is required to reduce the federal red ink to \$64 billion in fiscal 1991, from \$152 billion in fiscal 1989, which ended Sept. 31.

Meeting that goal will require substantial spending cuts and revenue increases. The administration projects the deficit for the current fiscal year will be \$123.8 billion.

The administration projected government debt held by the public, which does not include the federal debt held by social security and other government trust funds, at \$2.36 trillion in fiscal

1991, compared with \$2.3 trillion in fiscal 1990.

The administration also assumes the inflation rate will remain relatively stable over the next few years and decline to 2.9 per cent in 1995.

Consumer prices are forecast to rise by 4.2 per cent from the fourth quarter of 1989 to the fourth quarter of 1990 and 4.1 per cent in 1991, after an estimated 4.0 per cent rise in 1989.

Bush renewed his call to cut the capital gains tax. The controversial proposal would reduce the rate for long-term investments to a maximum of 19.6 per cent, compared with the current top rate of 33 per cent.

He said the plan would help U.S. businesses compete in overseas markets and help boost federal revenues. A similar proposal was passed in the House of Representatives last year, but failed to get through the Senate.

Bush has put the proposal high on his political agenda, but opponents argue that in the long-run reducing the capital gains rate is a revenue loser and getting it through Congress is likely to be a tough battle.

Bush also proposed a plan

aimed at improving the nation's poor savings rate, which financial analysts say forces the United States to rely heavily on foreign money to finance the federal deficit and business investments.

He proposed a tax exemption for contributions to a so-called family savings accounts. He also would allow first-time homebuyers to withdraw money from individual retirement accounts without tax penalty.

In a message to Congress that accompanied the 1,269-page budget document, Bush said his spending blueprint was designed "with an eye toward future growth and expansion of the human frontier."

He said it provides for record amounts for research and development, space, education and the head start pre-school programme for disadvantaged children. He said it also included a major investment in civil aviation and "a large increase in spending to attack the scourge of drugs."

At the same time, Bush said the plan "maintains a strong national defence while reflecting the dramatic changes in the world political situation."

Central bank chief backs Kuwait monetary policy

KUWAIT (AP) — Kuwait will continue what it considers a flexible structure of interest rates in the decade ahead of keep pace with international rates, central bank Governor Sheikh Salem Abdul Aziz Al Sabah has said.

He disclosed in a lecture Sunday to the Kuwait Economics Society that the government's public borrowing has reached 10 billion dinars (\$35 billion).

Oil-exporting Kuwait initiated public borrowing three years ago to cover chronic budget deficits.

Salem said the government was predicting expansion in the private sector against a cutback in public spending.

Thus the monetary policy in the 1990s "will play a vital role in the growth of national savings, challenging them to finance the economic growth process," he stressed.

He added: "The central bank will continue to apply in a complete and flexible manner all monetary policy tools with a view to dealing with any imbalances that may affect the stability of the monetary market."

That would ensure the ability to cope with fluctuations in international interest rates, encourage national savings and alleviate shrinking local liquidity resulting from the outflow of funds or a retreat in public spending, he said.

The governor pledged Kuwait will continue its policy of "securing a relative stability of the exchange rate of the Kuwaiti dinar by pegging it to a weighted basket of currencies of countries with which Kuwait has key trade links."

In 1975, Kuwait linked the dinar to the U.S. dollar, the Japanese yen, the German Deutschmark, the pound sterling, the French franc and the Swiss franc.

Salem defended the present structure of interest rates around an average 8 per cent, and said that within a year of its application in November 1988, private sector deposits increased by 382 million dinars (\$1.3 billion), or 13 per cent, while the increase in foreign currency deposits slowed down from 37 per cent to 9 per cent.

Japan sets terms for Gulf oil investment

ABU DHABI (R) — Japan has set conditions for Gulf countries wishing to invest in its oil refining and retail market, a senior Abu Dhabi official was quoted Monday as saying.

"According to information we received from Japanese officials, Japan will allow foreign investors to buy shares in its downstream industry on three conditions," Jonan Salim Al Dahiri, chairman of Abu Dhabi's International Petroleum Investment Co (IPIC), told Al Bayan newspaper.

He said Japan demanded that the investor should have long-term crude supplies, an agreement between the investor and the Japanese firms, and reciprocal treatment.

"The reciprocal treatment means that we should allow the Japanese to enter joint ventures in the petrochemical sector and other industries associated with oil," Dahiri told Al Bayan.

Two top Japanese oil officials toured the Gulf earlier this month to discuss long-term crude supplies. They said Gulf states were welcome to invest in Japan's retail market.

Saudi Arabian Oil Minister Hisham Nazer, currently visiting Japan, told Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu and Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama Friday the kingdom hoped to enter Japan's downstream market.

A senior Foreign Ministry official in Tokyo quoted Nazer as saying such a move could ensure stable oil supplies for Japan.

Subroto: OPEC must raise oil output capacity

TOKYO (R) — The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) must raise output capacity by up to six million barrels per day (BPD) by the year 2000 to meet growing demand, OPEC Secretary-General Subroto said Monday.

Capacity is now about 26 to 27 million BPD, he added.

Speaking at a two-day conference on Pacific energy cooperation, Subroto said stretched OPEC production capacity could make a sharp price rise unavoidable if oil prices remained at the current \$18 per barrel for some years.

"The problem is not that the

reserves are not there. The problem is one of increasing the capacity."

Oil demand, rising by a moderate 1.2 to 1.6 per cent a year, and dwindling production in non-OPEC countries will pressure OPEC to produce about 27 million BPD in 1995 and 32 million in 2000, Subroto said.

OPEC oil output hit a 1989 high of 23.6 million BPD in December, a Reuters survey showed earlier this month.

Subroto said increased capacity would require huge capital investments of about \$60 billion, or 10 per cent of OPEC's annual revenues, between now and 1995.

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

Iraq to build aluminium smelter

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq is planning to build an aluminium smelter with an annual capacity of 215,000 tonnes, the English daily Baghdad Observer said Monday. The newspaper quoted an industry ministry source as saying the French firm Aluminium Pechiney had won the contract to design the project, which would be completed in three years. There were no details on the cost of the plant and Gulf-based bankers and industry sources had no confirmation. Planned expansions of plants in Bahrain and Dubai and completion of two new smelters in Qatar and Saudi Arabia are expected to double Gulf aluminium capacity to over one million tonnes by 1994, making the area a major world producer. The Iraqi smelter would supply domestic industries such as car manufacturing, construction, packaging and electric power transmission, the Baghdad Observer said. Sharjah-based Crescent Petroleum Company would handle the financing for the project, it said. Tests were also being carried out to determine whether Iraqi crude could produce petroleum coke, the second most important raw material consumed in the aluminium smelting process.

Israel, France sign supercomputer accord

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel and France have signed an agreement to develop supercomputers, two weeks after the European Parliament moved to limit scientific ties with Israel over its handling of the Palestinian uprising. Arie Shoomer, director-general of the Science Ministry, told Reuters Monday the supercomputers would be used for medical, agricultural and defence research. The European Parliament urged the 12-nation European Community to limit scientific cooperation in protest at Israel's iron-fist policy toward Palestinian demonstrators in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. Supercomputers, which are manufactured only in Japan and the United States, process data more quickly than standard machines. Israel has asked the United States to sell it several supercomputers but the requests have been put off. Under the accord, France and Israel will each spend \$500,000 in the next two years to research supercomputer hardware and software, Shoomer said. The project is due to begin next month.

Kuwait seeks 4 new supertankers

NICOSIA (R) — The Kuwait Oil Tanker Company (KOTC) is in the market for four new supertankers and seven smaller ships, the Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) reported. "Definitely tanker freight rates are going to go up and people are going to require tonnage," KOTC Chairman Abdul Fattah Al Badr told the Nicosia-based Newsletter in an interview. He said there would be a shortage of Very Large Crude Carriers (VLCC) and the shipyards would not be able to meet demand in time. "All the yards are heavily booked for the next two to three years," Badr said. The Newsletter said Kuwait was looking for four VLCC tankers of around 280,000 deadweight tonnes (DWT) two refined products carriers of 35,000 DWT two liquefied petroleum gas carriers of 78,000 cubic metre capacity (around 40,000 cargo tonnes) and three ethylene/LPG tankers of 10,000 DWT. The latter would carry exports from Kuwait's planned petrochemical complex. The Newsletter said KOTC currently has 30 tankers with a total capacity of some 2.56 million tonnes.

Bangladesh food reserves rise

DHAKA (R) — Bangladesh, a country chronically prone to famine, has built up a reserve of 1.38 million tonnes of grain to meet emergencies and stabilise prices, a senior minister said Monday. The country's five major silos and 2,695 warehouses were full and it needed more warehouses to hold another 0.5 million tonnes, Deputy Prime Minister Shah Moazzem Hossain told parliament. Bangladesh has had a bumper rice crop and has more food in reserve than ever before, Food Ministry officials said. The reserves were below one million tonnes a year ago. Bangladesh expects foodgrain production will reach 19 million tonnes in the year up to June 1990 and hopes to raise that to 20 million tonnes by 1992. Bangladesh, which procures around two million tonnes of foodgrain every year to make up its shortfall, will need to import 1.487 million tonnes this year, Hossain said. Officials said the government was making "all-out efforts" to increase food production and boost reserves after successive floods in 1987 and 1988 almost crippled the agrarian-based economy.

Romanian banks aim to rejoin mainstream

BUCHAREST (R) — Romania's banking system, after years of isolation due to the "idiot" economic decisions of the Ceausescu era, aims to win back a place on the world financial stage, one of the country's leading bankers says.

At enormous cost to its people, Romania fully paid off its external debt last year and has run a healthy trade surplus for several years.

It now aims to increase its imports of consumer and capital goods at least threefold compared with last year.

Dan Pascariu, 39, appointed three weeks ago as vice-chairman of the Bank for Foreign Trade, told Reuters that as part of this trading expansion, Romania would reactivate credit lines and links with foreign banks and institutions.

Unlike other East Bloc countries, Romania is already a member of the International Monetary Fund, World Bank and the General Agreement on Tariffs

and Trade (GATT).

"Relations with them have been dormant but they can be unfrozen. We have the structures there and can work again with them very easily," said Pascariu, adding that the IMF and World Bank would send teams to Bucharest soon.

In the same way, the Romanian bank's offices in New York and Zurich had been "closed because of the narrowness of the old authorities — they will be reopened."

Just two foreign banks — Societe Generale of France and Manufacturers' Hanover Trust of the United States — have branches here. Pascariu said others were now welcome — "any bank can open a branch."

Razvan Temesan, head of the bank's Foreign Credits Department, said the former authorities' policy of isolation had jeopardised the future of Romanian banking.

"Having done so many idiot things in the past from an eco-

nomist's point of view, they cut off their working lines. But now we shall need more external credit lines, lines for short term deposits — normal relations will gradually be restored," Temesan said.

Pascariu stressed that, although he and his colleagues had been forced to carry Communist Party cards under the regime of the late Nicolae Ceausescu which collapsed on Dec. 22, they were banking professionals, not ideologists.

"We are aware of the revolution in financial services, the new instruments of banking services. We are aware of what a market economy is — we would like to operate in the market-oriented economy. And in a way we do prepare ourselves for this."

"We shall restructure, modernise, but compared to the commercial banks abroad we are in the iron age," he said.

Pascariu said Romania was still "evaluating the state of its economy and uncovering lies from the past."

"An example: The old regime announced that agricultural production last year was about 60 million tonnes of cereals and the truth was 16.9 million tonnes."

"They announced total repayment of the external debt in March 1989. In fact we still owed half a billion dollars then, and the last repayment was at the end of December."

Pascariu said he had no information on the millions said to have been siphoned abroad by the executed dictator and his clan. But he insisted that none of Ceausescu's "secret funds" had been processed through the Foreign Trade Bank. "It would have been easy to detect this and to check."

"He was 'unwilling' to reveal Romania's current reserves but added: 'We are not a bankrupt country by any means. We were left with considerable reserves.'"

Israeli budget inadequate due to influx of Jews

TEL AVIV (R) — The Israeli government was presenting a \$32-billion budget to parliament Monday but experts said it was already obsolete because of a mass wave of Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union.

Finance Minister Shimon Peres has budgeted \$900 million for immigration in the 1990 fiscal year, beginning on April 1, based on an estimated 40,000 new arrivals.

But immigration is currently running at 5,000 a month. The Absorption Ministry now expects up to 100,000 Soviet Jews to arrive in the coming year, and possibly more if the Kremlin allows direct flights between Moscow and Tel Aviv.

The treasury and the Bank of Israel said in a joint statement that the wave of immigration would boost economic growth but

fuel inflation, at least in the short term.

"Success in this mission will bring long-term economic benefits... but in the first stage, we may expect problems especially in housing and employment," the statement said.

It forecast gross domestic product (GDP) would grow by four per cent in 1990 if 40,000 immigrants arrived and by five per cent if the number of Soviet Jews reached 100,000.

GDP grew only one per cent in each of the last two years, mainly due to the effects of the Palestinian uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The treasury and the central bank did not forecast a figure for 1990 inflation but said they hoped it would not be much higher than last year's 20.7 per cent.

Peres pledged Sunday there will be no new taxes or forced loans to fund immigration, saying the cost might be met by selling off state corporations and the government's majority shareholding in the major commercial banks.

Israel has appealed to the United States and American Jews for special one-time grants to fund immigration.

Deputy Finance Minister Yossi Beilin and central bank head Michael Bruno have said the \$6.3 billion defence budget should be cut if more cash is needed.

The Defence Ministry has countered that its budget is already being cut effectively by the government's failure to make good the full additional cost of fighting the Palestinian uprising, estimated at \$225 million a year.

The treasury statement hinted that Israel might increase foreign borrowing to finance Soviet immigration.

"A certain increase in foreign debt is not necessarily negative in such a period," it said.

Debt service accounts for more than a third of the 1990 budget, with \$5.1 billion earmarked for interest payments and \$6 billion for repayment of principal.

The budget features a three-point cut in corporation tax to 42 per cent and minor income tax cuts for middle-income groups, offset by a one-point rise in value added tax to 16 per cent.

Subsidies on eggs, milk and water will be cut and the tax on cigarettes increased by 23 per cent.

The 1990 budget deficit is set at \$1.9 billion, compared with an actual deficit of \$2 billion in 1989.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Monday, January 29, 1990
Central Bank official rates

	Buy	Sell	French franc	115.0	116.2
U.S. dollar	659.0	665.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	460.1	464.7
Pound Sterling	1100.4	1111.4	Dutch guilder	346.9	350.4
Deutschmark	292.1	294.0	Swedish crown	106.9	108.0
Swiss franc	443.5	447.9	Italian lira (for 100)	52.6	53.1
			Belgian franc (for 10)	186.5	188.4

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.

One Sterling	1.6775/85	U.S. dollars	
One U.S. dollar	1.1880/90	Canadian dollar	
	1.6723/30	Deutschmarks	
	1.8335/45	Dutch guilders	
	1.4823/30	Swiss francs	
	34.98/35.00	Belgian francs	
	5.6800/50	French francs	
	1245/1246	Italian lire	
	142.68/78	Japanese yen	
	6.0800/1200	Swedish crowns	
	6.4700/50	Norwegian crowns	
	6.4700/50	Danish crowns	
One ounce of gold	422.00/422.50	U.S. dollars	

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — Australia day holiday. Market closed.

TOKYO — Investment trust fund buying aimed at index-linked shares drove the market sharply up across the board in thin trading which exaggerated the effect of purchases. Firmer bond prices and a relatively strong yen also added to the positive mood. The Nikkei index closed at 37,173.07, up 299.63.

HONG KONG — Chinese new year. Market closed.

SINGAPORE — Chinese new year holiday. Market closed.

BOMBAY — Trading on the Bombay stock exchange was brought to a standstill when brokers boycotted trade to complain at what they said was arbitrary behaviour by the exchange authorities.

FRANKFURT — Prices soared on news East Germany would hold its first free elections two months earlier than planned, but profit-taking pushed prices off highs in later trade. The Dax index ended up one per cent or 17.41 points at 1,811.55.

ZURICH — Shares closed firmer but slipped back slightly from the day's high. The market took its lead from the Frankfurt bourse, with buying interest focusing on selected blue chips. The SPI index rose 8.5 points to 1,097.2.

PARIS — Share prices were quietly stronger at midday with many investors waiting nervously on the sidelines ahead of Wall Street's opening. The CAC-40 index was 11,222 up at 1,897.97 at 1215 GMT.

LONDON — Shares fell from early highs in the afternoon as Wall Street rose and then fell. Investors generally were hesitant. By 1545 GMT the FTSE index was 12.4 up at 2,326.9.

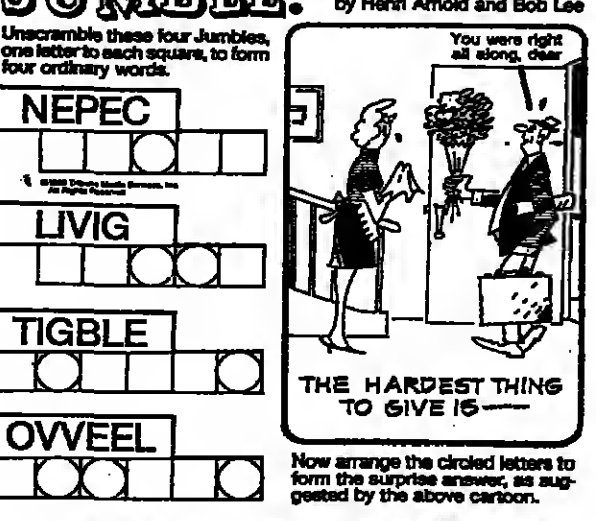
NEW YORK — A brief round of futures-linked selling erased early gains, sending stock prices lower and extending a pattern of volatile trading. The Dow was down one point after being up eight points earlier.

THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



"That's not your beard. I paid a witch to turn you into a cactus."

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: EXACT CREEL ASSURE POLICY

Answer: The most brutal part of that heavyweight fight — THE PRICE OF THE SEATS

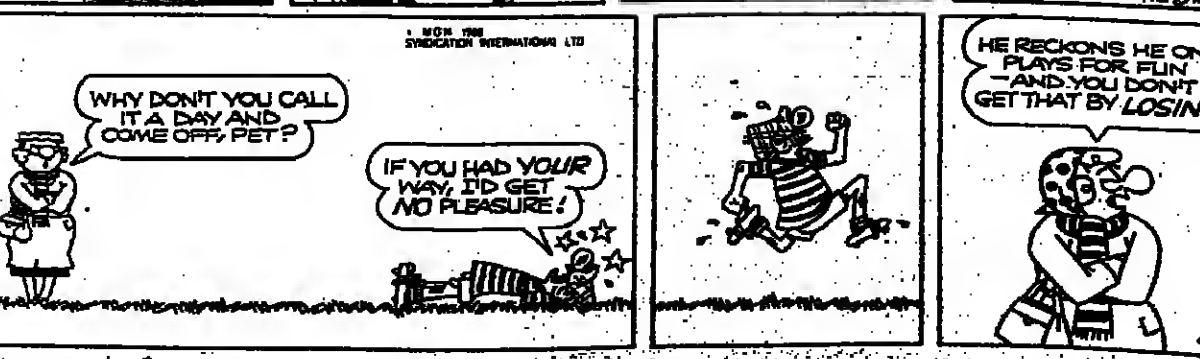
Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



Jordan hosts Davis Cup tennis tournament

By Samir Haidar
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Under the Royal Patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor Al Hussein, the Jordan Tennis Federation will host for the second time, the Davis Cup tennis tournament.

This tournament, sponsored by Hotel Jordan Inter-Continental, will be held in the Sports Palace starting Friday, Feb. 2, and ending Sunday, Feb. 4. The first day of the tournament will include two sets of singles, followed on Saturday by one game of doubles, and finally on Sunday the last two singles of the meet will be held.

This year the Jordanian team will include Hani Al Ali, Eyad Shehadeh, Iman Abu Jaber and Fawaz Hammadi. The team will play the Malaysian

team in a friendly competition as part of the tournament's series of dual meets between nations.

Involved in this international event are 79 nations, including Jordan which took part for the first time last year, when it hosted the Kuwaiti team.

The Davis Cup tennis tournament is a silver tennis trophy awarded each year to a winning country in international tournaments. Teams compete in European, American, and Eastern zones. Jordan is part of the Asia/Oceania zone, which includes Thailand, Bahrain, Syria, Taiwan, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Bangladesh, Iraq, Singapore, Kuwait, and Pakistan.

Zone winners will then play each other to decide on the finalists who will compete for the trophy.

49ers beat Broncos

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — San Francisco 49ers quarterback Joe Montana led his team to a national championship Super Bowl victory on Sunday by defeating the Denver Broncos 55-10.

In the most dominant performance ever at a Super Bowl — the U.S. equivalent of soccer's World Cup — the 49ers also became the first team to win a second consecutive championship since the Pittsburgh Steelers did 10 years ago.

Montana had five touchdown passes, three to Jerry Rice, breaking a Super Bowl record for touchdown passes. He also set a record with 13 straight pass completions.

San Francisco's 55 points was the highest ever. Montana led such an effective onslaught that he left the game with nearly 11 minutes to play with 22 passes for 297 yards to his credit.

In four Super Bowls he has thrown 11 touchdowns and no interceptions.

For Denver quarterback John Elway, it was a day of futility, ending with his third Super Bowl defeat. He missed eight of his first 10 passes and was intercepted twice and fumbled once. He completed 10 of 26 passes for 108 yards. The Broncos tied a Super Bowl record for losses — 0-4 — with the Minnesota Vikings.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY JANUARY 30, 1990

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A day to attend to the little affairs of everyday living to you will have these tasks in back of you and will be able to concentrate on more important matters.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Use your hunches to decide which friends can be of greatest assistance socially. Go with your family to see neighbours and companions instead of having them in your home.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Be sure to take household members along on social gatherings with friends. Invite everyone possible into home and entertain generously.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Accept an invitation of importance to be later given by a very influential man. Arrange to get in touch with close companions you soon want to visit with your family.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Those brilliant ideas for your activities you have are not ready to be put in effect. Show your family you share a great sense of financial well-being.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Rely upon family suggestions about the right persons to include in your activities. Make arrangements now to take an interesting trip with your attachment later on.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Several persons of broad scope

of mind will show you how to make more money planning future home interests. Good day for engaging with friends in recreation.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You and your family can decide upon a more practical course of action for the future and your home. Give a good practical gift to your attachment for more romance.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Make a point to encourage association with interesting persons of different views. Go along with family views on up-dating your residence.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) A group of interesting newcomers can become your very good friends. Rely upon your instincts where getting along with your family is concerned.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Join with those friends who like you at many social festivities. Have persons in your home who can give you the feeling of optimism.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) A friend of words will give you the business or financial advice you need. Invite as many outside contacts as possible into your home and have a wonderful time.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Don't hold up your social life waiting for a person to come from a distance. A good day for extra spark and enthusiasm at home.

COMMONWEALTH GAMES

Doping cases overshadow events

AUCKLAND, New Zealand

(AP) — Debbie Flintoff-King's dream of bowing out of international team track with a third consecutive Commonwealth Games gold medal was shattered Monday as England's Sally Gunnell wore her down to win the 400-metre hurdles.

The 29-year-old Australian, the Olympic champion, never looked like reproducing the turbo-charged finish which carried her to the gold medal in Seoul and had to be satisfied with the silver after she clipped the last hurdle.

At the other end of the generation gap, 15-year-old swimmer Hayley Lewis was denied her fifth gold medal of the games when Canada's Nancy Sweetnam won the women's 200 metres individual medley in 2:17.13.

Lewis, aiming for a record fifth women's title at the games, swam a personal best but had to be content with the bronze medal behind Sweetnam and fellow Australian Jodie Clatworthy.

The 15-year-old Brisbane schoolgirl has one more chance to break the record in the 200-metre butterfly Tuesday.

All of Monday's programme at the games was overshadowed, however, by a drugs scandal as an event that was billed as the "friendly games," was shamed by reports that an Indian weightlifter tested positive for anabolic steroids.

Neither the Indian delegation nor games organisers would name the alleged offender until a second test is carried out. But the Indian news agency, PTI, identified him as Subrata Kumar Paul, who won two silver medals and one bronze in the 67.5 category on Friday.

India's weightlifting team manager, Dharendra Sarkar, confirmed his team had been contacted over a positive dope test by one of its athletes. But he declined further comment.

Another Indian weightlifting official, team coach Pal Singh Sandhu, denied any of his lifters were involved.

"It's just a rumour, we haven't been told anything officially about it," he said. "Six of our boys have given urine samples and there is no problem."

Dr. Howell Jones, chairman of the Commonwealth Games federation's medical commission, told a news conference at the games village that a routine drug test had shown traces of anabolic steroids in one of the 3,200 games competitors.

Jones said if a second test confirmed the use of steroids, which are taken to develop muscle bulk, the federation would call the competitor before its court of appeal.

Under the constitution of the federation, competitors who use banned drugs are disqualified, forced to hand back any medals awarded and expelled from the

games. Jones said the positive test was uncovered during a routine test at the games' drug-analysis laboratory in Sydney, Australia, an approved international Olympic committee centre.

He said officials of the country concerned had been informed of the positive test.

"They reacted as you expect them to," Jones said. "They were very upset that one of their competitors had tested positive."

Sebastian Coe, attempting to end his glittering 14-year career with gold medals in the 800 and 1,500 metres, looked uncomfortable as he qualified for the final of the shorter distance, for which he holds the world record.

The 33-year-old Englishman finished fourth in the first 800-metre semifinal, which was good enough to give him an automatic spot in Thursday's final.

But he left his final burst for home until the last 75 metres, just edging out teammate Iken Billy.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
A TANNAN HRSCH
1980 Triquetra Media Services, Inc.

AVOID THE DANGER

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH

♠ 10 9 7 4

♥ A Q 10

♦ 8 5 2

♣ K 4

EAST

♠ A 3

♥ J 8 3 2

♦ J 7 6

♣ A J 9 8 5 3

SOUTH

♠ K Q 8 6 5

♥ K 7 4

♦ A 3

♣ 7 2

The bidding:

South West North East

1 NT Pass 2 ♣ Pass

2 ♣ Pass 3 ♣ Pass

4 ♣ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Ace of ♠

Getting a lucky break is one thing. Cashing in on it is another.

We like this hand played by British internationalist Tony Forrester at a tournament in Treviso, Italy.

Once North announced a spade fit, South's hand revealed to about 17 points for suit play. That was enough to accept North's invitation and go on to game.

Obviously, as the cards lie a club lead would have defeated the hand. The defenders have three fast tricks

in the black suits, and there is no way declarer can avoid losing a diamond as well. After a spade lead and continuation, however, declarer maneuvered skillfully to bring home his game.

South could not afford to have West regain the lead, because a club shift would have been fatal. So declarer won the second trump in hand, crossed to the ace of hearts and led a diamond. When East followed low, declarer won the king, then cashed the king and queen of hearts and led another diamond. East defended well by inserting the queen, but it was to no avail on this distribution.

The queen of diamonds was allowed to win the trick, and the best East could do was to exit with a diamond. When that suit divided evenly, declarer was able to get to the table with a trump and discard a club on the long diamond.

Note the care with which declarer played the hand. Cashing the hearts removed all of East's exit cards. As long as East held the queen of diamonds exactly twice, or failed to shoot to with mildy on the first round with a doubler, there was no way that defender could escape being employed.

THE Daily Crossword by Peter Siffert

ACROSS	DOWN
1 Main point	1 Iron hooks for large fish
2 Curved sword	2 Small bay
3 Dry run	3 Fashion
4 One opposed	4 Name
5 Instant	5 Repeat
6 Soft cheese	6 Curves
7 Escape	7 Life history for short
8 Radames' beloved	8 Jacques' school
9 China	9 Iterate
10 Student	10 Ski lift
11 Dark gray	11 Hibernia
12 Chicago athlete	
13 Cupola	
14 Salad item	
15 Viscount's superior	
16 Nourish	
17 Runner	
18 Loss one's temper	
19 Paper crown	
20 Farm sight	
21 Gangling	
22 Most rational	
23 Old users	
24 "Of — I Sing"	
25 In adjacent to	
26 Cheat of drawers	
27 Inconsistent	
28 Screen	
29 Brooklyn's Jane	
30 A Murphy	
31 Impetuously	
32 Inform	
33 Bonds	
34 Budget item	
35 "Harley"	
36 Russ. city	
37 Salomanders	
38 Letter	
39 Pitcher Nolan	
40 Knowledge	
41 Banded down	
42 Proofing term	
43 Abolished from eating	
44 Spring	
45 "Columbia, — of the ocean"	
46 Postcard	
47 Eat into	
48 Dough boy?	
49 Ambitious old style	
50 Map of great strength	
51 Old	
52 Sketch	
53 Funny Martha	
54 Post Pound	
55 Mr. Wiesel	
56 Whiskey	
57 Presidential monogram	

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Polish Communists bury party, switch to social democracy

WARSAW (Agencies) — Poland's Communists, saying their once-powerful party could never win the country's confidence, disbanded it Monday to form a Social Democratic Party.

Polish United Workers Party (PUWP) members voted to disband at the final congress soon after midnight after forming a new party called Social Democracy of the Republic of Poland.

Hundreds of delegates stood in funeral silence as the PUWP banner was carried for the last time from the ornate congress hall in the palace of culture given to Poland by Soviet dictator Josef Stalin.

The PUWP, formed in 1948 to impose Stalinism on Poland, crashed from power last September after the Solidarity movement crushed it in parliamentary elections in June.

A congress resolution Monday said: "Delegates... aware of the impossibility of the PUWP regaining social confidence, decide to end the activities of the party."

Delegates hope the new party will have more voter appeal than the PUWP, which according to

the government daily Rzeczpospolita would win 2.2 per cent of the vote if elections were held now.

But the new party, grouping former PUWP hardliners and progressives, looked likely to have trouble convincing Poles it was different from the old group although its statutes and programme excluded Marx and Lenin and their dogmas.

A radical reformer backed by Lech Walesa split off to form another party separate from the old-style Communists.

Tadeusz Fiszbach, the reformer, denounced what he called "artificial unity," saying it was impossible that all the old Communists had instantly become believers in democracy.

The new party programme embraces "human rights and civic freedoms... a strong, law-abiding state... parliamentary democracy and a multiparty system."

It endorsed a market-driven economy but rejects exclusively private ownership and says unemployment cannot be "treated as a permanent element of the econo-

mic mechanism. We assess the right to work as a natural right of man."

Mieczyslaw F. Rakowski, the first secretary of the PUWP, had hoped the congress would create a single party, but Fiszbach split off and formed his own party — the Social Democratic Union — which he said would likely field candidates in upcoming local government elections.

Delegates were divided over how radical the new Social Democracy Party should be and whether to bar some members of the old guard.

Aleksander Kwasniewski, who appeared to be Rakowski's heir apparent, said the new party must not include hardliners.

But conservatives joined in the vote in naming the party. Three other names had been proposed.

The founding congress delegates also debated a policy agenda, the composition of a supreme council and — in a possible move to drive out orthodox Communists — a proposed endorsement of the dramatic reforms of Poland's new government.

Front supporters besiege Romanian opposition

BUCHAREST (Agencies) — Thousands of Romanians loyal to the interim government besieged the headquarters of opposition parties Monday, forcing one party leader to leave inside an armoured car.

Tens of thousands of workers demonstrated in the capital in a well-orchestrated show of support for the ruling National Salvation Front (NSF).

A Reuters correspondent saw Corneliu Coposu, whose National Peasants Party head office was surrounded by at least 2,000 chanting workers, leave the building under army escort.

Workers pounded on the armoured car with their fists as the 74-year-old Coposu, the front's harshest critic, drove off with Prime Minister Petre Roman.

"Get him out of the country," shouted the demonstrators, many

of whom were brought by bus and truck from big state-owned factories.

But there were no signs of violence as soldiers and police defended the building and the headquarters of the National Liberals and Social Democrats, which were also besieged.

The crowd appeared to surpass the more than 15,000 people who filled Victory Square Sunday in the largest anti-government display since the December revolution.

The demonstrators, shouting their support for interim President Ion Iliescu, paraded down the central Maghera thoroughfare and other major arteries, cheered on by shopkeepers and pedestrians.

"Iliescu, don't give up. The country is your army," one group yelled.

Albanian protesters battle Kosovo police

TIPOVA MITROVICA, Yugoslavia (R) — Ethnic Albanians demanding political reforms clashed with police Monday in several towns in the Yugoslav province of Kosovo, after 14 people died in weekend violence.

Police used tear-gas in Uroševac to disperse demonstrators and several hundred Albanians smashed the windows of the Communist Party headquarters in Lipjan.

At least 20 businesses went on strike in support of the demonstrators in several Kosovo towns.

Witnesses said police shot dead 10 Kosovo Albanian demonstrators Saturday and four Sunday in renewed violence over demands for the resignation of local leaders, free elections and the release of political prisoners.

Former Kosovo leader Azem Vllasi, jailed with 14 other Albe-

nians last March on charges of fomenting unrest, demanded an end to his trial, telling a court in this mining town Monday that the indictments were false.

Albanian residents said at least four people died Sunday when police firing with automatic rifles stormed barricades made from telephone cables, bricks and timber in Suva Reka, 270 kilometres south of Belgrade.

At least 10 people died in clashes throughout Kosovo Saturday when police fired on demonstrators demanding reform.

Kosovo, which borders on Albania and is part of Yugoslavia's largest republic Serbia, has been torn for decades by tensions between its 1.7 million mostly Muslim ethnic Albanians and 200,000 Christian Serbs and Montenegrins.

C8 LUMN

Bride in hospital, groom in the tank

PORT WASHINGTON, New York (AP) — A bride, her father and her maid of honour were injured in a wedding-day car crash, and the bridegroom was charged with drunken driving, police say. The women were listed in critical condition. The father had minor neck, back and leg injuries, officials said. The accident occurred during a trip to a grocery store to get more food for a celebration after the wedding Tuesday of Orlando Rubio, 25, and Margarita Rodriguez, 35, Nassau police said. The couple, with Margarita Velazquez, 71, the bride's father, and the maid of honour, Sandra Garcia, 30, were returning from the store to their home in Port Washington when the car, driven by Rubio, hit a bridge abutment, police said. Rubio also was charged with vehicular assault and driving without a license, officer James Higgins said.

Fox tries to block property auction

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Comedian Red Fox is trying to block an auction of his possessions, including jewelry, several cars and other personal property, but the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), a Fox attorney, Paul Whitford of Beverly Hills, said the sale Saturday would conflict with efforts to liquidate the comedian's estate in bankruptcy court. The case, in which Fox listed \$2.1 million in assets and \$2.5 million in liabilities, stems from a bankruptcy Fox filed in 1983. Some of Fox's property has been sold off periodically to satisfy creditors. IRS agents seized the personal property and Fox's home during a raid Nov. 28 on the comedian's Las Vegas house. The IRS scheduled the auction to try to reduce Fox's tax liability of \$900,000, including penalties and interest.

The Bradys' are back

NEW YORK (AP) — The Brady family of television's yesteryear is returning once again as a weekly series. "The Bradys" scheduled arrival in mid-February will bump the new "Max Monroe: Loose Cannon" series. The Bradys first appeared on television in 1969 in a situation comedy called "The Brady Bunch." That was followed by a comedy-variety series, "The Brady Bunch Hour," dropped in 1977 after five months. But members of the clan were not to be denied. They returned, if only briefly, in 1981, in another network's spin-off situation comedy called "The Brady Brides."

Poachers poison rhinos

KATMANDU (AP) — Poachers poisoned a female rhinoceros and her male calf in a zoo and escaped with the horn of the calf, officials said Sunday. The officials said on condition their names were not used the two rhinos were found dead Saturday at the Jawalakhel zoo in a Katmandu suburb. Rhinoceros horns are in great demand in Hong Kong and other cities of the Far East, where they are considered an aphrodisiac. Asian rhinoceros live in the Chitwan jungle of southern Nepal and another sanctuary in Assam, in eastern India. Due to high demand for their horns, their numbers have been diminishing. Nepalese authorities have declared the rhinoceros an endangered species, and convicted poachers can be sentenced to up to 20 years in prison.

Lafontaine emerges as major challenger to Kohl in polls

SAARBRUECKEN, West Germany (Agencies) — Oskar Lafontaine, an independent-minded leftist, has risen from the shadows of regional office to position himself as Chancellor Helmut Kohl's challenger in December's federal elections.

Lafontaine, the 46-year-old governor of tiny Saarland state, led his Social Democratic Party (SPD) to a resounding victory in regional balloting Sunday, virtually assuring his nomination as the party's chancellor candidate.

Kohl's conservative Christian Democratic Union was handed the latest in a string of local setbacks. The Free Democrats, his centrist partner in the governing Bonn coalition, also lost seats.

Nationally known and respected as a tough career politician, Lafontaine would be strong opposition in Kohl's bid for a third four-year term as West German leader.

Sunday's vote in Saarland was an unexpectedly strong endorsement for Lafontaine's entry into national politics, as the Social Democrats widened its absolute majority in the state parliament.

The Social Democrats polled 54.4, compared to 33.4 per cent for the Christian Democrats and 5.6 per cent for the Free Democrats.

According to preliminary official results, the Social Democrats won 30 of the state parliament's 51 seats, a gain of four. The Christian Democrats won 18, down two, while the Free Democrats dropped from five to three seats.

For Kohl, it was a damper after last fall's sudden democratic changes in East Germany stirred hopes for German reunification and boosted the chancellor's standing.

"I'm very happy about this result, I'm surprised at how high it was," the beaming governor said in Saarbrücken, capital of his small state in the hills along the French border.

But Lafontaine, whose party has failed for the state result before naming him its national candidate, declined to say whether he would now become the SPD candidate.

"All these other questions are for later," he protested to persistent television reporters. He said

an SPD executive meeting in Bonn Monday would not yet decide on a candidate.

The Saar poll opened a year-long electoral marathon in West Germany, which will have three more state elections and two local government polls before December's general elections.

Lafontaine, whose brash debating style contrasts sharply with Kohl's plodding ways, has cut an increasingly prominent and controversial figure in national politics in recent years.

He stood up against a wave of national euphoria over East Germany's democratic revolution, warning that open borders meant a flood of East Germans could swamp West Germany.

He provoked cries of protest from Kohl's centre-right coalition by charging it was worsening unemployment and housing crises here by giving generous benefits to all newcomers.

But other states have started to copy his decision to cut social benefits for new arrivals.

According to analysis by the ARD television network, Lafontaine's first-polling emphasis on this issue paid off handsomely.

'Grand coalition' to rule E. Germany until March polls

Honecker arrested, taken to jail

EAST BERLIN (Agencies) — Ousted East German leader Erich Honecker, who is expected to be indicted for high treason, was arrested Monday morning, the official news agency ADN said.

The news agency said the 77-year-old Honecker was arrested after being released from East Berlin's Charite Hospital, where he had undergone surgery for a malignant kidney tumour.

Honecker was immediately taken to East Berlin's Rummelsburg prison, the brief dispatch said. Honecker joins other members of his ousted politburo already in prison awaiting trial.

Earlier this month, East German prosecutors said Honecker and former state security chief Erich Mielke would be charged with treason and corruption charges for misuse of their positions and state funds.

Honecker, the hardline Stalin-

ist who ruled for 17 years until his ouster Oct. 18, had previously been declared too ill to withstand imprisonment.

ADN said that the director of the Charite urology clinic, Dr. Peter Althaus, reiterated his opinion Monday that Honecker was still not well enough to be jailed.

On Sunday, West Germany's mass-circulation Bild newspaper said Honecker would be arrested, but that he would be held at a prison hospital because of his condition.

ADN made no mention of whether the Rummelsburg jail was equipped with a medical facility.

Earlier this month, East Germany's Lutheran church had offered to put Honecker up in a home for the aged upon his release from the hospital.

East Germany's Communist-led government and opposition

have agreed to form the first national unity coalition in 40 years till the first free elections in March, nearly two months earlier than planned.

The agreement signals a further drastic retreat in communist power as the once-hardline East European state heads for a democratic system despite turmoil.

The accord emerged after almost seven hours of talks on Sunday night with the country sliding into political chaos.

Both sides agreed to hold the elections, originally scheduled for May 6, on March 18. Till then, a government of all parties and opposition groups would rule.

Martin Ziegler, a church representative who helped moderate the talks, told reporters it would be a government of "national responsibility."

Communist Prime Minister Hans Modrow, whose nine-week

old government has looked increasingly shaky, would remain in his post, and each of the dozen opposition groups and parties would appoint a minister to join members of his five-party coalition.

Modrow said Sunday night's agreement would ensure "free and secret elections."

"The phase of (governing) responsibility has begun," he told Reuters before leaving the government guest house where the negotiations were held.

Modrow and his junior coalition partners had successfully resisted opposition demands that they suspend their party affiliations in order to form a grand coalition.

But the accord marked a further shrinkage in the power of the Communists who had totally dominated the country for four decades until a peaceful revolution last autumn.

Bungled IRA bomb kills 1

LONDON (R) — The Irish Republican Army (IRA) has killed a teenager and injured eight people in a bungled bomb attack intended for British security forces monitoring a republican rally in Londonderry.

Sunday's killing, which the IRA called "a freak accident," was the latest in a long line of botched attacks by the guerrilla group in Northern Ireland.

The 17-year-old boy, who was hit by chunks of flying masonry, died of head injuries. Four policemen, a soldier and three civilians were also slightly injured.

The bomb went off minutes before several hundred people filed past in a parade to commemorate the 1972 "bloody Sunday" civil rights march which ended with British paratroopers killing 13 Catholic protesters.

The guerrilla group apologised for the attack saying the bomb had been intended to hit British security forces.

"We regard the result of the explosion as having been a freak accident," it said in a statement.

The youth had come to the rally from nearby Strabane on a bus hired by the IRA's political wing, Sinn Féin, which plans to debate IRA mistakes during its annual conference in Dublin next weekend.

Sinn Féin's electoral support has slumped steadily after a string of bungled IRA attacks stretching back to November 1987 when a bomb killed 11 people attending a war memorial ceremony in Enniskillen.

Endara wants U.S. forces to stay

PANAMA CITY (AP) — President Guillermo Endara has told U.S. Vice-President Dan Quayle that American troops are needed to maintain Panama's stability until an effective police force is operational.

Latin American leaders should "think of the Panamanian people and what they want," Endara said of the U.S. invasion forces that have remained since they ousted former leader Manuel Antonio Noriega and enabled Endara to be sworn in as president.

The U.S. invasion of Panama, on Dec. 20, has rankled other Latin nations.

Peruvian President Alan Gar-

cia has refused to attend the Feb. 15 drug summit in Colombia with U.S. President George Bush unless the U.S. invasion forces are out of Panama.

Quayle met with leaders of Panama's new government to discuss Bush's \$1-billion economic recovery package and the withdrawal of occupying troops in what he said would be a matter of weeks. Endara had sought \$2 billion in U.S. assistance.

In a television interview, Quayle said the issue of the U.S. military invasion of Panama "is behind us" and that it is time to focus on the future of Panama.

The Bush economic recovery package includes loan guarantees

through the Export-Import Bank and variety of U.S. emergency relief assistance to help Panama pay its foreign debt, revive its economy and help businesses and other victims recover from the U.S. invasion and subsequent looting.

The focus of discussion shifted somewhat, however, as Endara said his country needs some U.S. troops to remain until the new national police force is operational.

"At this moment, we have not the police. Our forces are not quite capable of protecting the life, property and public order as the Panamanian people want," Endara told reporters.

Rebel Philippine general caught

MANILA (AP) — Troops early Monday captured a key figure in December's coup attempt against President Corason Aquino, military officials said.

Brigadier General Edgardo Abenina, arrested about 1:20 a.m. (1720 GMT Sunday) in Quezon City, is believed to be the most important leader of the Dec. 1-9 revolt captured so far.

Brig. Gen. Rodolfo Biazon, chief of the national capital region defence command, said Abenina was believed to have been the architect of the coalition of reform-minded soldiers and supporters of the late President Ferdinand Marcos, and to have spearheaded the sixth and bloodiest attempt to topple Aquino.

At least 113 people were killed and more than 500 injured in the failed coup. Abenina's arrest brought to at least 1,507 the number of troops in custody after the coup attempt. Of the figure,

158 are officers, the military said.

Biazon said about 80 troops surrounded Abenina's hideout in an exclusive Manila suburb early Monday and the general jumped over a fence, slightly injuring his leg trying to escape.

Biazon said troops were waiting for a search warrant to enter the house because other rebel leaders might be inside.

There was no resistance from Abenina, who was unarmed, Biazon said. He predicted that other rebel leaders would soon be arrested.

Abenina, whose capture carried a 1-million-peso (\$45,000) reward, was believed to be the senior officer in the December coup attempt, which included three other active duty flag officers and at least one retired general.

One active duty and one retired flag officer remain at large.

"He was responsible for the effective alliance of two other

groups," Biazon said of Abenina.

"He was supposed to be a member of the military junta" which would have replaced Aquino if the coup succeeded.

Abenina had been implicated in the August 1987 coup attempt led by former Colonel Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan, also sought in the December failed putsch.

Abenina was removed from his command in the central city of Cebu and had been undergoing investigation but escaped before the December incident.

This month, Senator Joseph Estrada released a letter from Abenina in which he said the coup attempt was launched to eliminate government corruption and pave the way for broad social, economic and political reforms.

"The Aquino government has failed," Abenina said in the letter. "It has failed to govern and ensure the safety and well-being of its citizens. We need a government that reflects our virtues."

Castro sees no end to Communist rule in Cuba

HAVANA (R) — Cuban President Fidel Castro, distancing himself further from the political and economic reforms sweeping Eastern Europe, said Sunday he saw Cuba's Communist Party ruling the island indefinitely.

But he said the socialist bloc no longer existed as a political force.

In a speech to a workers' congress in Havana, Castro contrasted what he called Cuba's unity with what he described as the "atomisation" occurring in East European countries which were adopting Western-style reforms.

The Cuban leader painted a bleak picture of the economic difficulties facing his country, saying there was total uncertainty about Cuba's economic ties with Eastern Europe in the next five years.

Arguing that Cuba's socialism was the home-grown product of the revolution he led in 1959, he signalled no change in one-party Communist rule.

"This is clear... as we see the future, we see the party ruling indefinitely," Castro said.

"Neither Karl Marx, nor Vladimir Lenin nor Frederick Engels said there would be a day when the party should disappear."

In his most frank appraisal so far of the changes rocking Eastern Europe, Castro referred to "countries which are becoming atomised as they follow the well-worn paths of Western capitalist philosophy."

"The socialist bloc does not exist politically any more, let's not fool ourselves," he added, saying some East European countries were embracing capitalism and adopting fierce anti-Communist positions.

Castro said he understood that internal problems were leading the Soviets to cut back on their \$5-billion annual aid to Cuba.

"The revolution will not back down one millimetre, not even if it is totally blockaded by the United States or if the Soviet Union totally cuts off its supplies," said Castro.

"We have prepared ourselves to engage in the struggle by all the people in defence of social-



Fidel Castro

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OBITUARY

With deep regret and sorrow we announce the demise of late

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Mother of Kamel and Tawfiq Kavar, who passed away in peace at the age of 86 and was buried on January 29th, 1990.

Condolences are received at the residence of Tawfiq Kavar the Honorary Consul General for Denmark, No. 7 Constantinople Street, near Annumon Hotel, Jabal Amman. For ladies in the morning and for gentlemen in the afternoon.

Memorial service will be held on Thursday February 1st, at 13:00 hrs. at the Orthodox Church - Abdali.

May the Lord bless her soul.

Indian troops leave Jaffna, Tigers move in

COLOMBO (AP) — Indian troops have pulled out of Jaffna, leaving the northern town to the Tamil Tiger guerrillas they fought for more than two years, according to residents and officials.

The Indian troops, who are scheduled to complete their withdrawal from Sri Lanka by the end of March, evacuated Jaffna late Saturday and pitched camps at an airfield and coastal villages about 16 kilometres away, residents said by telephone.

The unannounced evacuation caught many people by surprise when they woke up Sunday morning and realised the Indian troops were gone.

"We saw the Tiger flag fluttering all over the town and shops were open, traffic was abnormally active and people were throng-

ing the roads," one resident said on condition of not being identified.

Jaffna, 300 kilometres north-east of Colombo, was the heart of a Tamil separatist revolt that erupted in 1983 against the Sinhalese ethnic majority that dominates the Sri Lankan government and armed forces.

When the Sri Lankan government failed to quell the insurgency, it enlisted Indian help. An Indian peacekeeping force arrived in 1987 and became the target of the Tamil Tigers, the largest Tamil rebel group.

The Sri Lankan government started negotiating with the Tigers to give them a political role, while the Indians, who once gave the Tigers sanctuary on Indian soil, became the enemy.

Jaffna is strongly partisan turf

for the Tigers, who were routed from the predominantly Tamil town by Indian air and ground forces in the fall of 1987.

Small groups of armed Tigers, often referred to by Jaffna residents as "our boys" moved openly in the centre of town Sunday, according to the telephone reports.

A Sri Lankan military official in Colombo said the Indians completed their withdrawal from Jaffna by Saturday evening. An Indian diplomat, speaking on condition of not being identified, confirmed the departure but declined to say how many Indian troops were involved.

The Sri Lankan official, also speaking on condition of not being identified, said the Indians set up temporary camps along the northern coast of the Jaffna peninsula.

The Indian evacuation leaves only one major town still patrolled by peacekeeping force — the deepwater port of Trincomalee, 23 kilometres northeast of Colombo.

An Indian departure from Trincomalee is expected to trigger a power struggle within the Tamil movement because the city is the base of the three pro-Indian Tamil groups opposed by the Tigers.

The three groups captured control of the provincial council in an election boycotted by the Tigers, who want new elections called.

A former council member who belonged to the pro-Indian Eelam National Democratic Liberation Front was killed Sunday by two gunmen on bicycles in Trincomalee.

The council's coordinating secretary, Anthony Muttu Vedanayagam, accused the Tigers of killing C.M. Ganesalingam, who had been the council's rehabilitation minister.

A Tiger spokesman in Colombo denied the charge, claiming Ganesalingam was killed by fellow members of the Eelam National Democratic Liberation Front in an embezzlement dispute.

The Tamil insurrection grew out of a desire for a separate homeland, which militants said was needed to preserve the Tamil ethnic identity. Tamils accused the Sinhalese, who make up 75 per cent of Sri Lanka's population of 16 million people, of discrimination in jobs and education.

Tamils comprise 18 per cent of the population.

Global weather

(major world cities)

	MON.	TUE.	WED.	THUR.	FRI.	SAT.	SUN.
AMSTERDAM	04	20	07	45	Cloudy		
ATHENS	08	28	15	04	Cloudy		
BANGKOK	08	28	30	08	Cloudy		
BELMONT	22	72	28	01	Clear		
Buenos Aires	08	28	15	04	Cloudy		
Cairo	08	28	15	04	Cloudy		
CHICAGO	08	28	15	04	Cloudy		
COPENHAGEN	08	28	15	04	Cloudy		
FRANKFURT	08	28	15	04	Cloudy		
GENEVA	08	28	15	04	Cloudy		
HONG KONG	08	28	15	04	Cloudy		
LONDON	08	28	15	04	Cloudy		
LOS ANGELES	08	28	15	04	Cloudy		
MADRID	08	28	15	04	Cloudy		
MOSCOW	08	28	15	04	Cloudy		
MONTREAL	08	28	15	04	Cloudy		
MUMBAI	08	28	15	04	Cloudy		
NEW DELHI	08	28	15	04	Cloudy		
NEW YORK	08	28	15	04	Cloudy		
PARIS	08	28	15	04	Cloudy		
ROME	08	28	15	04	Cloudy		
SYDNEY	08	28	15	04	Cloudy		
TOKYO	08	28	15	04	Cloudy		
VIENNA	08	28	15	04	Cloudy		